

FIFTY "BAB" BALLADS
W. S. GILBERT.



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FIFTY "BAB" BALLADS



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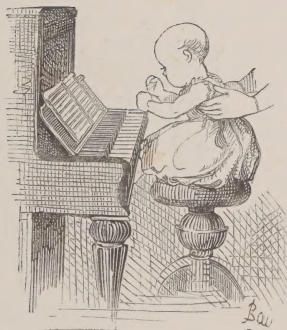
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FIFTY "BAB" BALLADS

Much Sound and Little Sense

BY
W. S. GILBERT



WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY THE AUTHOR

LONDON
GEORGE ROUTLEDGE AND SONS
THE BROADWAY, LUDGATE
NEW YORK: 416 BROOME STREET

1877



PREFACE.

THE "BAB BALLADS" appeared originally in the columns of "FUN," when that periodical was under the editorship of the late TOM HOOD. They were subsequently republished in two volumes, one called "THE BAB BALLADS," the other "MORE BAB BALLADS." The period during which they were written extended over some three or four years; many, however, were composed hastily and under the discomfiting necessity of having to turn out a quantity of lively verse by a certain day in every week. As it seemed to me (and to others) that the volumes were disfigured by the presence of these hastily written impostors, I thought it better to withdraw from both volumes such Ballads as seemed to show evidence of carelessness or undue haste, and to publish the remainder in the compact form under which they are now presented to the reader.

It may interest some to know that the first of the series, "The Yarn of the *Nancy Bell*," was originally offered to "PUNCH,"—to which I was, at that time, an occasional contributor. It was, however, declined by the then Editor, on the ground that it was "too cannibalistic for his readers' tastes."

W. S. GILBERT.

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THE "BAB" BALLADS.



CAPTAIN REECE.

OF all the ships upon the blue,
No ship contained a better crew
Than that of worthy CAPTAIN REECE,
Commanding of *The Mantelpiece*.

He was adored by all his men,
For worthy CAPTAIN REECE, R.N.,
Did all that lay within him to
Promote the comfort of his crew.

If ever they were dull or sad,
Their captain danced to them like mad,
Or told, to make the time pass by,
Droll legends of his infancy.

A feather bed had every man,
Warm slippers and hot-water can,
Brown windsor from the captain's store,
A valet, too, to every four.

Did they with thirst in summer burn,
Lo, seltzogenes at every turn,
And on all very sultry days
Cream ices handed round on trays.

Then currant wine and ginger pops
Stood handily on all the "tops;"
And also, with amusement rife,
A "Zoetrope, or Wheel of Life."

New volumes came across the sea
From MISTER MUDIE'S libraree;
The Times and *Saturday Review*
Beguiled the leisure of the crew.

Kind-hearted CAPTAIN REECE, R.N.,
Was quite devoted to his men;
In point of fact, good CAPTAIN REECE
Beatified *The Mantelpiece*.

One summer eve, at half-past ten,
He said (addressing all his men) :
“Come, tell me, please, what I can do
To please and gratify my crew.

“By any reasonable plan
I’ll make you happy if I can ;
My own convenience count as *nil* :
It is my duty, and I will.”

Then up and answered WILLIAM LEE
(The kindly captain’s coxswain he,
A nervous, shy, low-spoken man),
He cleared his throat and thus began :

“You have a daughter, CAPTAIN REECE,
Ten female cousins and a niece,
A Ma, if what I’m told is true,
Six sisters, and an aunt or two.

“Now, somehow, sir, it seems to me,
More friendly-like we all should be
If you united of ’em to
Unmarried members of the crew.

“If you’d ameliorate our life,
Let each select from them a wife ;
And as for nervous me, old pal,
Give me your own enchanting gal !”

Good CAPTAIN REECE, that worthy man,
Debated on his coxswain’s plan :
“I quite agree,” he said, “O BILL ;
It is my duty, and I will.

"My daughter, that enchanting gurl,
Has just been promised to an Earl,
And all my other familiee
To peers of various degree.



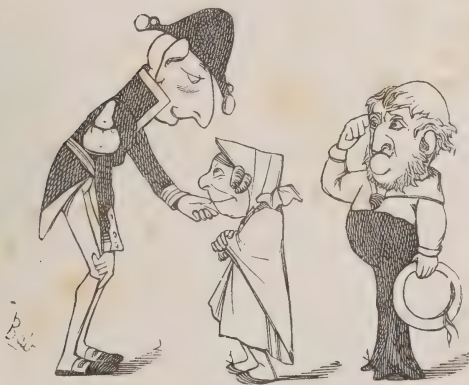
"But what are dukes and viscounts to
The happiness of all my crew?
The word I gave you I'll fulfil;
It is my duty, and I will.

"As you desire it shall befall,
I'll settle thousands on you all,
And I shall be, despite my hoard,
The only bachelor on board."

The boatswain of *The Mantelpiece*,
He blushed and spoke to CAPTAIN REECE:
"I beg your honour's leave," he said;
"If you would wish to go and wed,

"I have a widowed mother who
Would be the very thing for you—
She long has loved you from afar :
She washes for you, CAPTAIN R."

The Captain saw the dame that day—
Addressed her in his playful way—
"And did it want a wedding ring?
It was a tempting ickle sing!



"Well, well, the chaplain I will seek,
We'll all be married this day week
At yonder church upon the hill ;
It is my duty, and I will !"

The sisters, cousins, aunts, and niece,
And widowed Ma of CAPTAIN REECE,
Attended there as they were bid ;
It was their duty, and they did.

THE RIVAL CURATES.

LIST while the poet trolls
Of MR. CLAYTON HOOPER,
Who had a cure of souls
At Spiffton-extra-Soooper.

He lived on curds and whey,
And daily sang their praises,
And then he'd go and play
With buttercups and daisies.

Wild croquêt HOOPER banned,
And all the sports of Mammon,
He warred with cribbage, and
He exorcised backgammon.

His helmet was a glance
That spoke of holy gladness ;
A saintly smile his lance ;
His shield a tear of sadness.

His Vicar smiled to see
This armour on him buckled :
With pardonable glee
He blessed himself and chuckled.

“In mildness to abound
My curate’s sole design is ;
In all the country round
There’s none so mild as mine is !”



And HOOPER, disinclined
His trumpet to be blowing,
Yet didn’t think you’d find
A milder curate going.

A friend arrived one day
At Spiff-ton-extra-Soo-per,
And in this shameful way
He spoke to MR. HOOPER :

“You think your famous name
For mildness can’t be shaken,
That none can blot your fame—
But, HOOPER, you’re mistaken !

"Your mind is not as blank
As that of HOPLEY PORTER,
Who holds a curate's rank
At Assesmilk-cum-Worter.

"*He* plays the airy flute,
And looks depressed and blighted,
Doves round about him 'toot,'
And lambkins dance delighted.



"*He* labours more than you
At worsted work, and frames it;
In old maids' albums, too,
Sticks seaweed—yes, and names it!"

The tempter said his say,
Which pierced him like a needle—
He summoned straight away
His sexton and his beadle.

(These men were men who could
Hold liberal opinions :
On Sundays they were good—
On week-days they were minions.)



“To HOPLEY PORTER go,
Your fare I will afford you—
Deal him a deadly blow,
And blessings shall reward you.

“But stay—I do not like
Undue assassination,
And so before you strike,
Make this communication :

“I’ll give him this one chance—
If he’ll more gaily bear him,
Play croquêt, smoke, and dance,
I willingly will spare him.”

They went, those minions true,
 To Assesmilk-cum-Worter,
 And told their errand to
 The REVEREND HOPLEY PORTER.

"What?" said that reverend gent,
 "Dance through my hours of leisure?
 "Smoke?—bathe myself with scent?—
 Play croquet? Oh, with pleasure!

"Wear all my hair in curl?
 Stand at my door and wink—so—
 At every passing girl?
 My brothers, I should think so!



"For years I've longed for some
 Excuse for this revulsion:
 Now that excuse has come—
 I do it on compulsion!!!"

He smoked and winked away—

This REVEREND HOPLEY PORTER—

The deuce there was to pay

At Assesmilk-cum-Worter.

And HOOPER holds his ground,

In mildness daily growing—

They think him, all around,

The mildest curate going.





ONLY A DANCING GIRL.

ONLY a dancing girl,
With an unromantic style,
With borrowed colour and curl,
With fixed mechanical smile,
With many a hackneyed wile,
With ungrammatical lips,
And corns that mar her trips.

Hung from the "flies" in air,
 She acts a palpable lie,
 She's as little a fairy there
 As unpoetical I !
 I hear you asking, Why—
 Why in the world I sing
 This tawdry, tinselled thing ?

No airy fairy she,
 As she hangs in arsenic green
 From a highly impossible tree
 In a highly impossible scene
 (Herself not over-clean).
 For fays don't suffer, I'm told,
 From bunions, coughs, or cold.

And stately dames that bring
 Their daughters there to see,
 Pronounce the "dancing thing"
 No better than she should be,
 With her skirt at her shameful knee,
 And her painted, tainted phiz :
 Ah, matron, which of us is ?

(And, in sooth, it oft occurs
 That while these matrons sigh,
 Their dresses are lower than hers,
 And sometimes half as high ;
 And their hair is hair they buy,
 And they use their glasses, too,
 In a way she'd blush to do.)

But change her gold and green
For a coarse merino gown,
And see her upon the scene
Of her home, when coaxing down
Her drunken father's frown,
In his squalid cheerless den :
She's a fairy truly, then !



TO A LITTLE MAID.

BY A POLICEMAN.

COME with me, little maid,
Nay, shrink not, thus afraid—
I'll harm thee not!
Fly not, my love, from me—
I have a home for thee—
A fairy grot,
Where mortal eye
Can rarely pry,
There shall thy dwelling be!

List to me, while I tell
The pleasures of that cell,
Oh, little maid!
What though its couch be rude,
Homely the only food
Within its shade?
No thought of care
Can enter there,
No vulgar swain intrude!

Come with me, little maid,
Come to the rocky shade
I love to sing;
Live with us, maiden rare—
Come, for we "want" thee there,
Thou elfin thing,
To work thy spell,
In some cool cell
In stately Pentonville!



THE TROUBADOUR.

A TROUBADOUR he played
Without a castle wall,
Within, a hapless maid
Responded to his call.

“Oh, willow, woe is me!
Alack and well-a-day!
If I were only free
I'd hie me far away!”

Unknown her face and name,
But this he knew right well,
The maiden's wailing came
From out a dungeon cell.

A hapless woman lay
Within that dungeon grim—
That fact, I've heard him say,
Was quite enough for him.

"I will not sit or lie,
Or eat or drink, I vow,
Till thou art free as I,
Or I as pent as thou."

Her tears then ceased to flow,
Her wails no longer rang,
And tuneful in her woe
The prisoned maiden sang:

"Oh, stranger, as you play,
I recognize your touch;
And all that I can say
Is, thank you very much."

He seized his clarion straight,
And blew thereat, until
A warden oped the gate.
"Oh, what might be your will?"

"I've come, Sir Knave, to see
The master of these halls:
A maid unwillingly
Lies prisoned in their walls."

With barely stifled sigh
 That porter drooped his head,
 With teardrops in his eye,
 "A many, sir," he said.

He stayed to hear no more,
 But pushed that porter by,
 And shortly stood before
 SIR HUGH DE PECKHAM RYE.

SIR HUGH he darkly frowned,
 "What would you, sir, with me?"
 The troubadour he downed
 Upon his bended knee.



"I've come, DE PECKHAM RYE,
 To do a Christian task;
 You ask me what would I?
 It is not much I ask.

"Release these maidens, sir,
 Whom you dominion o'er—
 Particularly her
 Upon the second floor.

“And if you don’t, my lord”—

He here stood bolt upright,

And tapped a tailor’s sword—

“Come out, you cad, and fight!”



SIR HUGH he called—and ran

The warden from the gate:

“Go, show this gentleman

The maid in Forty-eight.”

By many a cell they past,

And stopped at length before

A portal, bolted fast:

The man unlocked the door.

He called inside the gate

With coarse and brutal shout,

“Come, step it, Forty-eight!”

And Forty-eight stepped out.

"They gets it pretty hot,
 The maidens what we cotch—
 Two years this lady's got
 For collaring a wotch."



"Oh, ah!—indeed—I see,"
 The troubadour exclaimed—
 "If I may make so free,
 How is this castle named?"

The warden's eyelids fill,
 And sighing, he replied,
 "Of gloomy Pentonville
 This is the female side!"

The minstrel did not wait
 The warden stout to thank,
 But recollected straight
 He'd business at the Bank.

FERDINANDO AND ELVIRA;

OR, THE GENTLE PIEMAN.

PART I.

AT a pleasant evening party I had taken down to supper
One whom I will call ELVIRA, and we talked of love and TUPPER,

MR. TUPPER and the Poets, very lightly with them dealing,
For I've always been distinguished for a strong poetic feeling.

Then we let off paper crackers, each of which contained a motto,
And she listened while I read them, till her mother told her not to.

Then she whispered, "To the ball-room we had better, dear, be walking;
If we stop down here much longer, really people will be talking."

There were noblemen in coronets, and military cousins,
There were captains by the hundred, there were baronets by dozens.

Yet she heeded not their offers, but dismissed them with a blessing,
Then she let down all her back hair, which had taken long in dressing.

Then she had convulsive sobbings in her agitated throttle,
Then she wiped her pretty eyes and smelt her pretty smelling-bottle.

So I whispered, "Dear ELVIRA, say,—what can the matter be with you?
Does anything you've eaten, darling POPSY, disagree with you?"

But spite of all I said, her sobs grew more and more distressing,
And she tore her pretty back hair, which had taken long in dressing.

Then she gazed upon the carpet, at the ceiling, then above me,
And she whispered, "FERDINANDO, do you really, *really* love me?"

"Love you?" said I, then I sighed, and then I gazed upon her sweetly—
For I think I do this sort of thing particularly neatly.

"Send me to the Arctic regions, or illimitable azure,
On a scientific goose-chase, with my COXWELL or my GLAISHER!"

"Tell me whither I may hie me—tell me, dear one, that I may know—
Is it up the highest Andes? down a horrible volcano?"

But she said, "It isn't polar bears, or hot volcanic grottoes:
Only find out who it is that writes those lovely cracker mottoes!"

PART II.

"Tell me, HENRY WADSWORTH, ALFRED, POET CLOSE, or MISTER
TUPPER,
Do you write the bon-bon mottoes my ELVIRA pulls at supper?"

But HENRY WADSWORTH smiled, and said he had not had that honour;
And ALFRED, too, disclaimed the words that told so much upon her.

"MISTER MARTIN TUPPER, POET CLOSE, I beg of you inform us ;"
But my question seemed to throw them both into a rage enormous.

MISTER CLOSE expressed a wish that he could only get anigh to me ;
And MISTER MARTIN TUPPER sent the following reply to me :

"A fool is bent upon a twig, but wise men dread a bandit,"—
Which I know was very clever ; but I didn't understand it.

Seven weary years I wandered—Patagonia, China, Norway,
Till at last I sank exhausted at a pastrycook his doorway.

There were fuchsias and geraniums, and daffodils and myrtle,
So I entered, and I ordered half a basin of mock turtle.

He was plump and he was chubby, he was smooth and he was rosy,
And his little wife was pretty and particularly cosy.

And he chirped and sang, and skipped about, and laughed with laughter
hearty—
He was wonderfully active for so very stout a party.

And I said, "O gentle pieman, why so very, very merry ?
Is it purity of conscience, or your one-and-seven sherry ?"

But he answered, "I'm so happy—no profession could be dearer—
If I am not humming 'Tra ! la ! la !' I'm singing 'Tirer, lirer !'

"First I go and make the patties, and the puddings, and the jellies,
Then I make a sugar bird-cage, upon which a table swell is ;

"Then I polish all the silver, which a supper-table lacquers ;
Then I write the pretty mottoes which you find inside the crackers"—

"Found at last!" I madly shouted. "Gentle pieman, you astound me!"
Then I waved the turtle soup enthusiastically round me.

And I shouted and I danced until he'd quite a crowd around him—
And I rushed away exclaiming, "I have found him! I have found him!"

And I heard the gentle pieman in the road behind me trilling,
"'Tira, lira!' stop him, stop him! 'Tra! la! la!' the soup's a shilling!"

But until I reached ELVIRA'S home, I never, never waited,
And ELVIRA to her FERDINAND'S irrevocably mated!



TO MY BRIDE.

(WHOEVER SHE MAY BE.)

O H ! little maid !—(I do not know your name
Or who you are, so, as a safe precaution
I'll add)—Oh, buxom widow ! married dame !
(As one of these must be your present portion)
Listen, while I unveil prophetic lore for you,
And sing the fate that Fortune has in store for you.

You'll marry soon—within a year or twain—
A bachelor of *circa* two and thirty :
Tall, gentlemanly, but extremely plain,
And, when you're intimate, you'll call him "BERTIE."
Neat—dresses well ; his temper has been classified
As hasty ; but he's very quickly pacified.

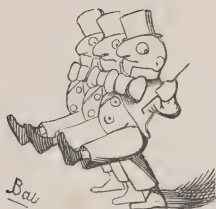
You'll find him working mildly at the Bar,
After a touch at two or three professions,
From easy affluence extremely far,
A brief or two on Circuit—"soup" at Sessions ;
A pound or two from whist, and backing horses,
And, say three hundred from his own resources.

Quiet in harness; free from serious vice,
His faults are not particularly shady,
You'll never find him "*shy*"—for, once or twice
Already, he's been driven by a lady,
Who parts with him—perhaps a poor excuse for him—
Because she hasn't any further use for him.

Oh! bride of mine—tall, dumpy, dark, or fair!
Oh! widow—wife, maybe, or blushing maiden,
I've told *your* fortune; solved the gravest care
With which your mind has hitherto been laden.
I've prophesied correctly, never doubt it;
Now tell me mine—and please be quick about it!

You—only you—can tell me, an' you will,
To whom I'm destined shortly to be mated,
Will she run up a heavy *modiste's* bill?
If so, I want to hear her income stated
(This is a point which interests me greatly).
To quote the bard, "Oh! have I seen her lately?"

Say, must I wait till husband number one
Is comfortably stowed away at Woking?
How is her hair most usually done?
And tell me, please, will she object to smoking?
The colour of her eyes, too, you may mention:
Come, Sibyl, prophesy—I'm all attention.



SIR MACKLIN.

OF all the youths I ever saw
None were so wicked, vain, or silly,
So lost to shame and Sabbath law,
As worldly TOM, and BOB, and BILLY.

For every Sabbath day they walked
(Such was their gay and thoughtless natur)
In parks or gardens, where they talked
From three to six, or even later.

SIR MACKLIN was a priest severe
In conduct and in conversation,
It did a sinner good to hear
Him deal in ratiocination.

He could in every action show
Some sin, and nobody could doubt him.
He argued high, he argued low,
He also argued round about him.

He wept to think each thoughtless youth
Contained of wickedness a skinful,
And burnt to teach the awful truth,
That walking out on Sunday's sinful.

"Oh, youths," said he, "I grieve to find
The course of life you've been and hit on—
Sit down," said he, "and never mind
The pennies for the chairs you sit on.



"My opening head is 'Kensington,'
How walking there the sinner hardens,
Which when I have enlarged upon,
I go to 'Secondly'—its 'Gardens.'

"My 'Thirdly' comprehendeth 'Hyde,'
Of Secresy the guilts and shameses;
My 'Fourthly'—'Park'—its verdure wide—
My 'Fifthly' comprehends 'St. James's.'

To "Twenty-firstly" on they go,
The lads do not attempt to scout him;
He argued high, he argued low,
He also argued round about him.

"Ho, ho!" he cries, "you bow your crests—
My eloquence has set you weeping;
In shame you bend upon your breasts!"
(And so they did, for they were sleeping.)



He proved them this—he proved them that—
This good but wearisome ascetic;
He jumped and thumped upon his hat,
He was so very energetic.

His Bishop at this moment chanced
To pass, and found the road encumbered;
He noticed how the Churchman danced,
And how his congregation slumbered.

The hundred and eleventh head
The priest completed of his stricture ;
“ Oh, bosh ! ” the worthy Bishop said,
And walked him off as in the picture.



THE YARN OF THE "NANCY BELL."*

'T WAS on the shores that round our coast
From Deal to Ramsgate span,
That I found alone on a piece of stone
An elderly naval man.

His hair was weedy, his beard was long,
And weedy and long was he,
And I heard this wight on the shore recite,
In a singular minor key:

"Oh, I am a cook and a captain bold,
And the mate of the *Nancy* brig,
And a bo'sun tight, and a midshipmite,
And the crew of the captain's gig."

And he shook his fists and he tore his hair,
Till I really felt afraid,
For I couldn't help thinking the man had been drinking,
And so I simply said:

* A version of this ballad is published as a Song, by Mr. Jeffreys, Soho Square.

"Oh, elderly man, it's little I know
Of the duties of men of the sea,
And I'll eat my hand if I understand
However you can be

"At once a cook, and a captain bold,
And the mate of the *Nancy* brig,
And a bo'sun tight, and a midshipmite,
And the crew of the captain's gig."

Then he gave a hitch to his trousers, which
Is a trick all seamen larn,
And having got rid of a thumping quid,
He spun this painful yarn :

"'T was in the good ship *Nancy Bell*
That we sailed to the Indian Sea,
And there on a reef we come to grief,
Which has often occurred to me.

"And pretty nigh all the crew was drowned
(There was seventy-seven o' soul),
And only ten of the *Nancy's* men
Said 'Here !' to the muster-roll.

"There was me and the cook and the captain bold,
And the mate of the *Nancy* brig,
And the bo'sun tight, and a midshipmite,
And the crew of the captain's gig.

"For a month we'd neither wittles nor drink,
Till a-hungry we did feel,
So we drawed a lot, and, accordin' shot
The captain for our meal.

"The next lot fell to the *Nancy's* mate,
And a delicate dish he made;
Then our appetite with the midshipmite
We seven survivors stayed.

"And then we murdered the bo'sun tight,
And he much resembled pig;
Then we wittled free, did the cook and me,
On the crew of the captain's gig.

"Then only the cook and me was left,
And the delicate question, 'Which
Of us two goes to the kettle?' arose,
And we argued it out as sich.

"For I loved that cook as a brother, I did,
And the cook he worshipped me;
But we'd both be blowed if we'd either be stowed
In the other chap's hold, you see.

" 'I'll be eat if you dines off me,' says TOM;
 'Yes, that,' says I, 'you'll be,—
 'I'm boiled if I die, my friend,' quoth I;
 And 'Exactly so,' quoth he.

"Says he, 'Dear JAMES, to murder me
Were a foolish thing to do,
For don't you see that you can't cook *me*,
While I can—and will—cook *you* !'

"So he boils the water, and takes the salt
And the pepper in portions true
(Which he never forgot), and some chopped shalot,
And some sage and parsley too.

" 'Come here,' says he, with a proper pride,
Which his smiling features tell,
'Twill soothing be if I let you see
How extremely nice you'll smell.'

"And he stirred it round and round and round,
And he sniffed at the foaming froth;
When I ups with his heels, and smothers his squeals
In the scum of the boiling broth.

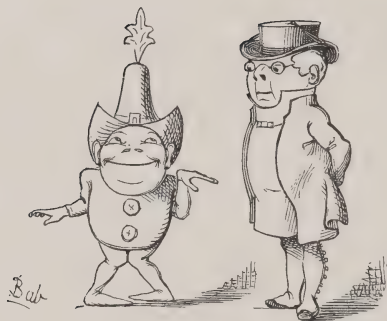
"And I eat that cook in a week or less,
And—as I eating be
The last of his chops, why, I almost drops,
For a wessel in sight I see!

* * * * *

"And I never larf, and I never smile,
And I never lark nor play,
But sit and croak, and a single joke
I have—which is to say:

" 'Oh, I am a cook and a captain bold,
And the mate of the *Nancy* brig,
And a bo'sun tight, and a midshipmite,
And the crew of the captain's gig!'"





THE BISHOP OF RUM-TI-FOO.

FROM east and south the holy clan
Of Bishops gathered to a man;
To Synod, called Pan-Anglican,
In flocking crowds they came.
Among them was a Bishop, who
Had lately been appointed to
The balmy isle of Rum-ti-Foo,
And PETER was his name.

His people—twenty-three in sum—
They played the eloquent tum-tum,
And lived on scalps served up in rum—
The only sauce they knew.

When first good BISHOP PETER came
(For PETER was that Bishop's name),
To humour them, he did the same
As they of Rum-ti-foo.

His flock, I've often heard him tell,
(His name was PETER) loved him well,
And, summoned by the sound of bell,
In crowds together came.
"Oh, massa, why you go away?
Oh, MASSA PETER, please to stay."
(They called him PETER, people say,
Because it was his name.)

He told them all good boys to be,
And sailed away across the sea,
At London Bridge that Bishop he
Arrived one Tuesday night;
And as that night he homeward strode
To his Pan-Anglican abode,
He passed along the Borough Road,
And saw a gruesome sight.

He saw a crowd assembled round
A person dancing on the ground,
Who straight began to leap and bound
With all his might and main.
To see that dancing man he stopped,
Who twirled and wriggled, skipped and hopped,
Then down incontinently dropped,
And then sprang up again.

The Bishop chuckled at the sight.
"This style of dancing would delight
A simple Rum-ti-Foozleite.
I'll learn it if I can,
To please the tribe when I get back."
He begged the man to teach his knack.
"Right Reverend Sir, in half a crack!"
Replied that dancing man.



The dancing man he worked away
And taught the Bishop every day—
The dancer skipped like any fay—
Good PETER did the same.
The Bishop buckled to his task
With *battements*, cuts, and *pas de basque*
(I'll tell you, if you care to ask,
That PETER was his name.)

"Come, walk like this," the dancer said,
"Stick out your toes—stick in your head,
Stalk on with quick, galvanic tread—
Your fingers thus extend;
The attitude's considered quaint."
The weary Bishop, feeling faint,
Replied, "I do not say it ain't,
But 'Time!' my Christian friend!"



"We now proceed to something new—
Dance as the PAYNES and LAURIS do,
Like this—one, two—one, two—one, two."
The Bishop, never proud,
But in an overwhelming heat
(His name was PETER, I repeat)
Performed the PAYNE and LAURI feat,
And puffed his thanks aloud.

Another game the dancer planned—
 "Just take your ankle in your hand,
 And try, my lord, if you can stand—
 Your body stiff and stark.
 If, when revisiting your see,
 You learnt to hop on shore—like me—
 The novelty would striking be,
 And must attract remark."



"No," said the worthy Bishop, "No;
 That is a length to which, I trow,
 Colonial Bishops cannot go.
 You may express surprise
 At finding Bishops deal in pride—
 But if that trick I ever tried,
 I should appear undignified
 In Rum-ti-Foozle's eyes.

“The islanders of Rum-ti-Foo
Are well-conducted persons, who
Approve a joke as much as you,
 And laugh at it as such;
But if they saw their Bishop land,
His leg supported in his hand,
The joke they wouldn't understand—
 ’T would pain them very much!”



THE PRECOCIOUS BABY.

A VERY TRUE TALE.

(To be sung to the Air of the "Whistling Oyster.")

AN elderly person—a prophet by trade—
With his quips and tips
On withered old lips,
He married a young and a beautiful maid ;
The cunning old blade !
Though rather decayed,
He married a beautiful, beautiful maid.

She was only eighteen, and as fair as could be,
With her tempting smiles
And maidenly wiles,
And he was a trifle past seventy-three :
Now what she could see
Is a puzzle to me,
In a prophet of seventy—seventy-three !

Of all their acquaintances bidden (or bad)
With their loud high jinks
And underbred winks,
None thought they'd a family have—but they had ;
A dear little lad
Who drove 'em half mad,
For he turned out a horribly fast little cad.

For when he was born he astonished all by,
With their "Law, dear me !"
"Did ever you see ?"
He'd a pipe in his mouth and a glass in his eye,
A hat all awry—
An octagon tie—
And a miniature—miniature glass in his eye.

He grumbled at wearing a frock and a cap,
With his "Oh, dear, oh !"
And his "Hang it ! 'oo know !"
And he turned up his nose at his excellent pap—
"My friends, it's a tap
Dat is not worf a rap."
(Now this was remarkably excellent pap.)

He'd chuck his nurse under the chin, and he'd say,
With his "Fal, lal, lal"—
" 'Oo doosed fine gal!"
This shocking precocity drove 'em away:
"A month from to-day
Is as long as I'll stay—
Then I'd wish, if you please, for to toddle away."

His father, a simple old gentleman, he
With nursery rhyme
And "Once on a time,"
Would tell him the story of "Little Bo-P,"
"So pretty was she,
So pretty and wee,
As pretty, as pretty, as pretty could be."



But the babe, with a dig that would startle an ox,
With his "C'ck! Oh, my!—
Go along wiz 'oo, fie!"
Would exclaim, "I'm affaid 'oo a socking ole fox."
Now a father it shocks,
And it whitens his locks,
When his little babe calls him a shocking old fox.

The name of his father he'd couple and pair
(With his ill-bred laugh,
And insolent chaff)
With those of the nursery heroines rare—
Virginia the Fair,
Or Good Goldenhair,
Till the nuisance was more than a prophet could bear.

"There's Jill and White Cat" (said the bold little brat,
With his loud, "Ha, ha!")
"'Oo sly ickle Pa!
Wiz 'oo Beauty, Bo-Peep, and 'oo Mrs. Jack Sprat!
I've noticed 'oo pat
My pretty White Cat—
I sink dear mamma ought to know about dat!"

He early determined to marry and wive,
For better or worse
With his elderly nurse—
Which the poor little boy didn't live to contrive:
His health didn't thrive—
No longer alive,
He died an enfeebled old dotard at five!

MORAL.

Now, elderly men of the bachelor crew,
With wrinkled hose
And spectacted nose,
Don't marry at all—you may take it as true
If ever you do
The step you will rue,
For your babes will be elderly—elderly too.



TO PHŒBE.*

“GENTLE, modest little flower,
Sweet epitome of May,
Love me but for half an hour,
Love me, love me, little fay.”
Sentences so fiercely flaming
In your tiny shell-like ear,
I should always be exclaiming
If I loved you, PHŒBE dear.

“Smiles that thrill from any distance
Shed upon me while I sing!
Please ecstaticize existence,
Love me, oh, thou fairy thing!”
Words like these, outpouring sadly,
You’d perpetually hear,
If I loved you fondly, madly;—
But I do not, PHŒBE dear.

¹ This ballad is published as a Song, under the title “If,” by Messrs. Cramer and Co.



BAINES CAREW, GENTLEMAN.

OF all the good attorneys who
Have placed their names upon the roll,
But few could equal BAINES CAREW
For tender-heartedness and soul.

Whene'er he heard a tale of woe
From client A or client B,
His grief would overcome him so
He'd scarce have strength to take his fee.

It laid him up for many days,
When duty led him to distraint,
And serving writs, although it pays,
Gave him excruciating pain.

He made out costs, distrained for rent,
Foreclosed and sued, with moistened eye—
No bill of costs could represent
The value of such sympathy.

No charges can approximate
The worth of sympathy with woe;—
Although I think I ought to state
He did his best to make them so.

Of all the many clients who
Had mustered round his legal flag,
No single client of the crew
Was half so dear as CAPTAIN BAGG.

Now, CAPTAIN BAGG had bowed him to
A heavy matrimonial yoke—
His wifey had of faults a few—
She never could resist a joke.

Her chaff at first he meekly bore,
Till unendurable it grew.
“To stop this persecution sore
I will consult my friend CAREW.

“And when CAREW’s advice I’ve got,
Divorce *a mensâ* I shall try.”
(A legal separation—not
A vinculo conjugii.)

"Oh, BAINES CAREW, my woe I've kept
 A secret hitherto, you know;"—
 (And BAINES CAREW, ESQUIRE, he wept
 To hear that BAGG *had* any woe.)



"My case, indeed, is passing sad.
 My wife—whom I considered true—
 With brutal conduct drives me mad."
 "I am appalled," said BAINES CAREW.

"What! sound the matrimonial knell
 Of worthy people such as these!
 Why was I an attorney? Well—
 Go on to the *sævitia*, please."

"Domestic bliss has proved my bane,—
 A harder case you never heard,
 My wife (in other matters sane)
 Pretends that I'm a Dicky bird!

"She makes me sing, 'Too-whit, too-wee!'
And stand upon a rounded stick,
And always introduces me
To every one as 'Pretty Dick'!"

"Oh, dear," said weeping BAINES CAREW,
"This is the direst case I know."
"I'm grieved," said BAGG, "at paining you—
To COBB and POLTHERTHWAITE I'll go—

"To COBB's cold, calculating ear,
My gruesome sorrows I'll impart"—
"No; stop," said BAINES, "I'll dry my tear,
And steel my sympathetic heart."

"She makes me perch upon a tree,
Rewarding me with, 'Sweety—nice!'
And threatens to exhibit me
With four or five performing mice."

"Restrain my tears I wish I could"
(Said BAINES), "I don't know what to do."—
Said CAPTAIN BAGG, "You're very good."
"Oh, not at all," said BAINES CAREW.



"She makes me fire a gun," said BAGG;
 "And, at a preconcerted word,
 Climb up a ladder with a flag,
 Like any street-performing bird.

"She places sugar in my way—
 In public places calls me 'Sweet!'
 She gives me groundsel every day,
 And hard canary-seed to eat."

"Oh, woe! oh, sad! oh, dire to tell!"
 (Said BAINES). "Be good enough to stop."
 And senseless on the floor he fell,
 With unpremeditated flop!



Said CAPTAIN BAGG, "Well, really I
 Am grieved to think it pains you so.
 I thank you for your sympathy;
 But, hang it!—come—I say, you know!"

But BAINES lay flat upon the floor,
Convulsed with sympathetic sob ;—
The Captain toddled off next door,
And gave the case to MR. COBB.





THOMAS WINTERBOTTOM HANCE.

IN all the towns and cities fair
On Merry England's broad expanse,
No swordsman ever could compare
With THOMAS WINTERBOTTOM HANCE.

The dauntless lad could fairly hew
A silken handkerchief in twain,
Divide a leg of mutton too—
And this without unwholesome strain.

On whole half-sheep, with cunning trick,
His sabre sometimes he'd employ—
No bar of lead, however thick,
Had terrors for the stalwart boy.

At Dover daily he'd prepare
To hew and slash, behind, before—
Which aggravated MONSIEUR PIERRE,
Who watched him from the Calais shore.



It caused good PIERRE to swear and dance,
The sight annoyed and vexed him so;
He was the bravest man in France—
He said so, and he ought to know.

"Regardez donc, ce cochon gros—
Ce polisson! Oh, sacré bleu!
Son sabre, son plomb, et ses gigots!
Comme cela m'ennuye, enfin, mon Dieu!

"Il sait que les foulards de soie
Give no retaliating whack—
Les gigots morts n'ont pas de quoi—
Le plomb don't ever hit you back."

But every day the headstrong lad
Cut lead and mutton more and more;
And every day poor PIERRE, half mad,
Shrieked loud defiance from his shore.

HANCE had a mother, poor and old,
A simple, harmless village dame,
Who crowed and clapped as people told
Of WINTERBOTTOM'S rising fame.

She said, "I'll be upon the spot
To see my TOMMY'S sabre-play;"
And so she left her leafy cot,
And walked to Dover in a day.

PIERRE had a doating mother, who
Had heard of his defiant rage;
His Ma was nearly ninety-two,
And rather dressy for her age.

At HANCE's doings every morn,
With sheer delight *his* mother cried ;
And MONSIEUR PIERRE's contemptuous scorn
Filled *his* mamma with proper pride.

But HANCE's powers began to fail—
His constitution was not strong—
And PIERRE, who once was stout and hale,
Grew thin from shouting all day long.

Their mothers saw them pale and wan,
Maternal anguish tore each breast,
And so they met to find a plan
To set their offsprings' minds at rest.



Said MRS. HANCE, "Of course I shrinks
From bloodshed, ma'am, as you're aware,
But still they'd better meet, I thinks."
"Assurément !" said MADAME PIERRE.

A sunny spot in sunny France
 Was hit upon for this affair;
 The ground was picked by MRS. HANCE,
 The stakes were pitched by MADAME PIERRE.

Said MRS. H., "Your work you see—
 Go in, my noble boy, and win."
 "En garde, mon fils!" said MADAME P.
 "Allons!" "Go on!" "En garde!" "Begin!"



(The mothers were of decent size,
 Though not particularly tall;
 But in the sketch that meets your eyes
 I've been obliged to draw them small.)

Loud sneered the doughty man of France,
"Ho! ho! Ho! ho! Ha! ha! Ha! ha!"
"The French for 'Pish!'" said THOMAS HANCE.
Said PIERRE, "L'Anglais, Monsieur, pour 'Bah.'"

Said MRS. H., "Come, one! two! three!—
We're sittin' here to see all fair."
"C'est magnifique!" said MADAME P.,
"Mais, parbleu! ce n'est pas la guerre!"

"Je scorn un foe si lache que vous,"
Said PIERRE, the doughty son of France.
"I fight not coward foe like you!"
Said our undaunted TOMMY HANCE.

"The French for 'Pooh!'" our TOMMY cried.
"L'Anglais pour 'Va!'" the Frenchman crowed.
And so, with undiminished pride,
Each went on his respective road.





A DISCONTENTED SUGAR BROKER.

A GENTLEMAN of City fame
Now claims your kind attention ;
East India broking was his game,
His name I shall not mention :
No one of finely-pointed sense
Would violate a confidence,
And shall *I* go
And do it? No !
His name I shall not mention.

He had a trusty wife and true,
And very cosy quarters,
A manager, a boy or two,
Six clerks, and seven porters,
A broker must be doing well
(As any lunatic can tell)
Who can employ
An active boy,
Six clerks and seven porters.

His knocker advertised no dun,
No losses made him sulky,
He had one sorrow—only one—
He was extremely bulky.
A man must be, I beg to state,
Exceptionally fortunate
Who owns his chief
And only grief
Is—being very bulky.

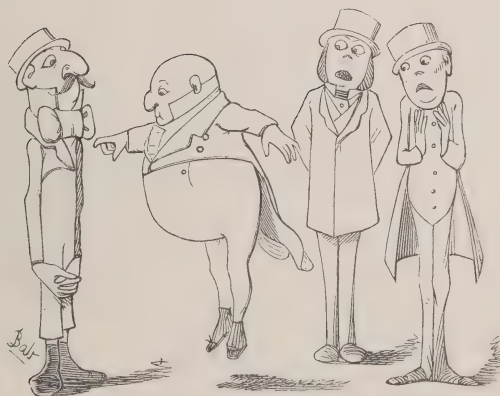
“This load,” he’d say, “I cannot bear;
I’m nineteen stone or twenty!
Henceforward I’ll go in for air
And exercise in plenty.”
Most people think that, should it come,
They can reduce a bulging tum
To measures fair
By taking air
And exercise in plenty.

In every weather, every day,
Dry, muddy, wet, or gritty,
He took to dancing all the way
From Brompton to the City.
You do not often get the chance
Of seeing sugar brokers dance
From their abode
In Fulham Road
Through Brompton to the City.

He braved the gay and guileless laugh
Of children with their nusses,
The loud uneducated chaff
Of clerks on omnibuses.
Against all minor things that rack
A nicely-balanced mind, I'll back
The noisy chaff
And ill-bred laugh
Of clerks on omnibuses.

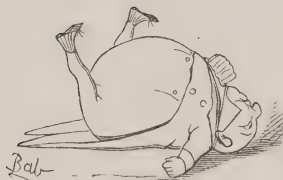
His friends, who heard his money chink,
And saw the house he rented,
And knew his wife, could never think
What made him discontented.
It never entered their pure minds
That fads are of eccentric kinds,
Nor would they own
That fat alone
Could make one discontented.

“Your riches know no kind of pause,
Your trade is fast advancing;
You dance—but not for joy, because
You weep as you are dancing.
To dance implies that man is glad,
To weep implies that man is sad;
But here are you
Who do the two—
You weep as you are dancing!”



His mania soon got noised about
And into all the papers;
His size increased beyond a doubt
For all his reckless capers:
It may seem singular to you,
But all his friends admit it true—
The more he found
His figure round,
The more he cut his capers.

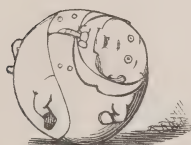
His bulk increased—no matter that—
He tried the more to toss it—
He never spoke of it as "fat,"
But "adipose deposit."
Upon my word, it seems to me
Unpardonable vanity
(And worse than that)
To call your fat
An "adipose deposit."



At length his brawny knees gave way,
And on the carpet sinking,
Upon his shapeless back he lay
And kicked away like winking.
Instead of seeing in his state
The finger of unswerving Fate,
He laboured still
To work his will,
And kicked away like winking.

His friends, disgusted with him now,
Away in silence wended—

I hardly like to tell you how
This dreadful story ended.
The shocking sequel to impart,
I must employ the limner's art—
If you would know
This sketch will show
How his exertions ended.



MORAL.

I hate to preach—I hate to prate—
I'm no fanatic croaker,
But learn contentment from the fate
Of this East India broker.
He'd everything a man of taste
Could ever want, except a waist;
And discontent
His size anent,
And bootless perseverance blind,
Completely wrecked the peace of mind
Of this East India broker.

THE PANTOMIME "SUPER" TO HIS MASK.

VAST empty shell !
Impertinent, preposterous abortion !
With vacant stare,
And ragged hair,
And every feature out of all proportion !
Embodiment of echoing inanity !
Excellent type of simpering insanity !
Unwieldy, clumsy nightmare of humanity !
I ring thy knell !

To-night thou diest,
Beast that destroy'st my heaven-born identity !
Nine weeks of nights,
Before the lights,
Swamped in thine own preposterous nonentity,
I've been ill-treated, cursed, and thrashed diurnally,
Credited for the smile you wear externally—
I feel disposed to smash thy face, infernally,
As there thou liest !

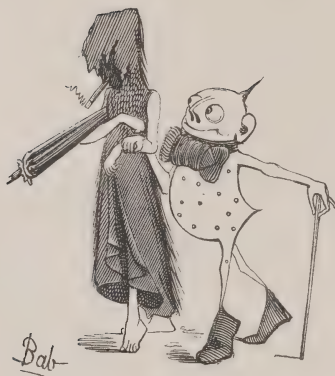
I've been thy brain :
I've been the brain that lit thy dull concavity !
The human race
Invest *my* face
With thine expression of unchecked depravity,

Invested with a ghastly reciprocity,
I've been responsible for thy monstrosity,
I, for thy wanton, blundering ferocity—
But not again!

'Tis time to toll
Thy knell, and that of follies pantomimical:
A nine weeks' run,
And thou hast done
All thou canst do to make thyself inimical.
Adieu, embodiment of all inanity!
Excellent type of simpering insanity!
Unwieldy, clumsy nightmare of humanity!
Freed is thy soul!

(*The Mask respondeth.*)

Oh! master mine,
Look thou within thee, ere again ill-using me.
Art thou aware
Of nothing there
Which might abuse thee, as thou art abusing me?
A brain that mourns *thine* unredeemed rascality?
A soul that weeps at *thy* threadbare morality?
Both grieving that *their* individuality
Is merged in thine?



THE GHOST, THE GALLANT, THE GAEL, AND THE GOBLIN.

O 'ER unreclaimed suburban clays
Some years ago were hobblin'
An 'elderly ghost of easy ways,
And an influential goblin.
The ghost was a sombre spectral shape,
A fine old five-act foggy,
The goblin imp, a lithe young ape,
A fine low-comedy bogy.

And as they exercised their joints,
Promoting quick digestion,
They talked on several curious points,
And raised this delicate question :

“Which of us two is Number One—
The ghostie, or the goblin?”
And o’er the point they raised in fun
They fairly fell a-squabblin’.

They’d barely speak, and each, in fine,
Grew more and more reflective:
Each thought his own particular line
By chalks the more effective.
At length they settled some one should
By each of them be haunted,
And so arrange that either could
Exert his prowess vaunted.

“The Quaint against the Statuesque”—
By competition lawful—
The goblin backed the Quaint Grotesque,
The ghost the Grandly Awful.
“Now,” said the goblin, “here’s my plan—
In attitude commanding,
I see a stalwart Englishman
By yonder tailor’s standing.

“The very fittest man on earth
My influence to try on—”
Of gentle, p’raps of noble birth,
And dauntless as a lion!
Now wrap yourself within your shroud—
Remain in easy hearing—
Observe—you’ll hear him scream aloud
When I begin appearing!”

The imp with yell unearthly—wild—
 Threw off his dark enclosure :
 His dauntless victim looked and smiled
 With singular composure.
 For hours he tried to daunt the youth,
 For days, indeed, but vainly—
 The stripling smiled!—to tell the truth,
 The stripling smiled inanely.



For weeks the goblin, weird and wild,
 That noble stripling haunted ;
 For weeks the stripling stood and smiled,
 Unmoved and all undaunted.
 The sombre ghost exclaimed, "Your plan
 Has failed you, goblin, plainly :
 Now watch yon hardy Hieland man,
 So stalwart and ungainly.

“These are the men who chase the roe,
Whose footsteps never falter,
Who bring with them, where'er they go,
A smack of old SIR WALTER.
Of such as he, the men sublime
Who lead their troops victorious,
Whose deeds go down to after-time,
Enshrined in annals glorious!

“Of such as he the bard has said
‘Hech thrawfu’ raltie rorkie!
Wi’ thecht ta’ croonie clapperhead
And fash’ wi’ unco pawkie!’
He’ll faint away when I appear,
Upon his native heather;
Or p’raps he’ll only scream with fear,
Or p’raps the two together.”

The spectre showed himself, alone,
To do his ghostly battling,
With curdling groan and dismal moan,
And lots of chains a-rattling!
But no—the chiel’s stout Gaelic stuff
Withstood all ghostly harrying;
His fingers closed upon the snuff
Which upwards he was carrying.

For days that ghost declined to stir,
A foggy shapeless giant—
For weeks that splendid officer
Stared back again defiant.



Just as the Englishman returned
The goblin's vulgar staring,
Just so the Scotchman boldly spurned
The ghost's unmannered scaring.

For several years the ghostly twain
These Britons bold have haunted,
But all their efforts are in vain—
Their victims stand undaunted.
This very day the imp, and ghost,
Whose powers the imp derided,
Stand each at his allotted post—
The bet is undecided.

THE PHANTOM CURATE.

A FABLE.

A BISHOP once—I will not name his see—
Annoyed his clergy in the mode conventional;
From pulpit shackles never set them free,
And found a sin where sin was unintentional.
All pleasures ended in abuse auricular—
The Bishop was so terribly particular.

Though, on the whole, a wise and upright man,
He sought to make of human pleasures clearances;
And form his priests on that much-lauded plan
Which pays undue attention to appearances.
He couldn't do good deeds without a psalm in 'em,
Although, in truth, he bore away the palm in 'em.

Enraged to find a deacon at a dance,
Or catch a curate at some mild frivolity,
He sought by open censure to enhance
Their dread of joining harmless social jollity.
Yet he enjoyed (a fact of notoriety)
The ordinary pleasures of society.

One evening, sitting at a pantomime,
 (Forbidden treat to those who stood in fear of him),
Roaring at jokes, *sans* metre, sense, or rhyme,
 He turned, and saw immediately in rear of him,
 His peace of mind upsetting, and annoying it,
 A curate, also heartily enjoying it.

Again, 't was Christmas Eve, and to enhance
 His children's pleasure in their harmless rollicking,
He, like a good old fellow, stood to dance;
 When something checked the current of his frolicking:
 That curate, with a maid he treated lover-ly,
 Stood up and figured with him in the "Coverley!"

Once, yielding to an universal choice
 (The company's demand was an emphatic one,
For the old Bishop had a glorious voice),
 In a quartet he joined—an operatic one.
 Harmless enough, though ne'er a word of grace in it,
 When, lo! that curate came and took the bass in it!

One day, when passing through a quiet street,
 He stopped awhile and joined a Punch's gathering;
And chuckled more than solemn folk think meet,
 To see that gentleman his Judy lathering;
 And heard, as Punch was being treated penally,
 That phantom curate laughing all hyænally.

Now at picnic, 'mid fair golden curls,
Bright eyes, straw hats, *bottines* that fit amazingly,
A *croquêt-bout* is planned by all the girls;
And he, consenting, speaks of *croquêt* praisingly;
But suddenly declines to play at all in it—
The curate fiend has come to take a ball in it!

Next, when at quiet sea-side village, freed
From cares episcopal and ties monarchical,
He grows his beard, and smokes his fragrant weed,
In manner anything but hierarchical—
He sees—and fixes an unearthly stare on it—
That curate's face, with half a yard of hair on it!

At length he gave a charge, and spake this word:
"Vicars, your curates to enjoyment urge ye may;
To check their harmless pleasuring's absurd;
What laymen do without reproach, my clergy may."
He spake, and lo! at this concluding word of him,
The curate vanished—no one since has heard of him.



KING BORRIA BUNGALEE BOO.

KING BORRIA BUNGALEE BOO
Was a man-eating African swell;
His sigh was a hullabaloo,
His whisper a horrible yell—
A horrible, horrible yell!

Four subjects, and all of them male,
To BORRIA doubled the knee,
They were once on a far larger scale,
But he'd eaten the balance, you see
("Scale" and "balance" is punning, you see).

There was haughty PISH-TUSH-POOH-BAH,
There was lumbering DOODLE-DUM-DEY,
Despairing ALACK-A-DEY-AH,
And good little TOOTLE-TUM-TEH—
Exemplary TOOTLE-TUM-TEH.

One day there was grief in the crew,
For they hadn't a morsel of meat,
And BORRIA BUNGALEE BOO
Was dying for something to eat—
"Come, provide me with something to eat!

"ALACK-A-DEY, famished I feel;
Oh, good little TOOTLE-TUM-TEH,
Where on earth shall I look for a meal?
For I haven't no dinner to-day!—
Not a morsel of dinner to-day!

"Dear TOOTLE-TUM, what shall we do?
Come, get us a meal, or, in truth,
If you don't, we shall have to eat you,
Oh, adorable friend of our youth!
Thou beloved little friend of our youth!"

And he answered, "Oh, BUNGALEE BOO,
For a moment I hope you will wait,—
TIPPY-WIPPITY TOL-THE-ROL-LOO
Is the Queen of a neighbouring state—
A remarkably neighbouring state.

"TIPPY-WIPPITY TOL-THE-ROL-LOO,
She would pickle deliciously cold—
And her four pretty Amazons, too,
Are enticing, and not very old—
Twenty-seven is not very old.

"There is neat little TITTY-FOL-LEH,
There is rollicking TRAL-THE-RAL-LAH,
There is jocular WAGGETY-WEH,
There is musical DOH-REH-MI-FAH—
There's the nightingale DOH-REH-MI-FAH!"

So the forces of BUNGALEE BOO
Marched forth in a terrible row,
And the ladies who fought for QUEEN LOO
Prepared to encounter the foe—
This dreadful, insatiate foe!

But they sharpened no weapons at all,
And they poisoned no arrows—not they!
They made ready to conquer or fall
In a totally different way—
An entirely different way.

With a crimson and pearly-white dye
They endeavoured to make themselves fair,
With black they encircled each eye,
And with yellow they painted their hair
(It was wool, but they thought it was hair).

And the forces they met in the field:—
And the men of KING BORRIA said,
“Amazonians, immediately yield!”
And their arrows they drew to the head—
Yes, drew them right up to the head.

But jocular WAGGETY-WEH
Ogled DOODLE-DUM-DEY (which was wrong),
And neat little TITTY-FOL-LEH
Said, “TOOTLE-TUM, you go along!
You naughty old dear, go along!”

And rollicking TRAL-THE-RAL-LAH
Tapped ALACK-A-DEY-AH with her fan;
And musical DOH-REH-MI-FAH
Said, “PISH, go away, you bad man!
Go away, you delightful young man!”

And the Amazons simpered and sighed,
And they ogled, and giggled, and flushed,
And they opened their pretty eyes wide,
And they chuckled, and flirted, and blushed
(At least, if they could, they'd have blushed).

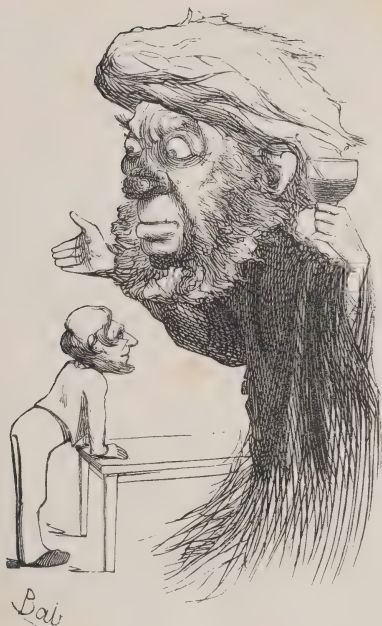
But haughty PISH-TUSH-POOH-BAH
Said, "ALACK-A-DEY, what does this mean?"
And despairing ALACK-A-DEY-AH
Said, "They think us uncommonly green!
Ha! ha! most uncommonly green!"

Even blundering DOODLE-DUM-DEY
Was insensible quite to their leers,
And said good little TOOTLE-TUM-TEH,
"It's your blood we desire, pretty dears—
We have come for our dinners, my dears!"

And the Queen of the Amazons fell
To BORRIA BUNGALÉE BOO,—
In a mouthful he gulped, with a yell,
TIPPY-WIPPITY TOL-THE-ROL-LOO—
The pretty QUEEN TOL-THE-ROL-LOO.

And neat little TITTY-FOL-LEH
Was eaten by PISH-POOH-BAH,
And light hearted WAGGETY-WEH
By dismal ALACK-A-DEY-AH—
Despairing ALACK-A-DEY-AH.

And rollicking TRAL-THE-RAL-LAH
Was eaten by DOODLE-DUM-DEY,
And musical DOH-REH-MI-FAH
By good little TOOTLE-TUM-TEH—
Exemplary TOOTLE-TUM-TEH!



BOB POLTER.

BOB POLTER was a navvy, and
His hands were coarse, and dirty too,
His homely face was rough and tanned,
His time of life was thirty-two.

He lived among a working clan
(A wife he hadn't got at all),
A decent, steady, sober man—
No saint, however—not at all.

He smoked, but in a modest way,
Because he thought he needed it;
He drank a pot of beer a day,
And sometimes he exceeded it.

At times he'd pass with other men
A loud convivial night or two,
With, very likely, now and then,
On Saturdays, a fight or two.

But still he was a sober soul,
A labour-never-shirking man,
Who paid his way—upon the whole
A decent English working man.

One day, when at the Nelson's Head
(For which he may be blamed of you),
A holy man appeared, and said,
"Oh, ROBERT, I'm ashamed of you."

He laid his hand on ROBERT'S beer
Before he could drink up any,
And on the floor, with sigh and tear,
He poured the pot of "thruppenny."

"Oh, ROBERT, at this very bar
A truth you'll be discovering,
A good and evil genius are
Around your noddle hovering.



“They both are here to bid you shun
 The other one’s society,
 For Total Abstinence is one,
 The other, Inebriety.”

He waved his hand—a vapour came—
 A wizard POLTER reckoned him:
 A bogy rose and called his name,
 And with his finger beckoned him.

The monster’s salient points to sum,—
 His heavy breath was portery;
 His glowing nose suggested rum;
 His eyes were gin-and-wortery.

His dress was torn—for dregs of ale
 And slops of gin had rusted it;
 His pimpled face was wan and pale,
 Where filth had not encrusted it.

"Come, POLTER," said the fiend, "begin,
And keep the bowl a-flowing on—
A working man needs pints of gin
To keep his clockwork going on."

BOB shuddered: "Ah, you've made a miss
If you take me for one of you:
You filthy beast, get out of this—
BOB POLTER don't want none of you."

The demon gave a drunken shriek,
And crept away in stealthiness,
And lo! instead, a person sleek,
Who seemed to burst with healthiness.

"In me, as your adviser hints,
Of Abstinence you've got a type—
Of MR. TWEEDIE'S pretty prints
I am the happy prototype.

"If you abjure the social toast,
And pipes, and such frivolities,
You possibly some day may boast
My prepossessing qualities!"

BOB rubbed his eyes, and made 'em blink:
"You almost make me tremble, you!
If I abjure fermented drink,
Shall I, indeed, resemble you?"



“And will my whiskers curl so tight?
My cheeks grow smug and muttoney?
My face become so red and white?
My coat so blue and buttoney?

“Will trousers, such as yours, array
Extremities inferior?
Will chubbiness assert its sway
All over my exterior?

“In this, my unenlightened state,
To work in heavy boots I comes,
Will pumps henceforward decorate
My tiddle toddle tootsicums?

"And shall I get so plump and fresh,
And look no longer seedily?
My skin will henceforth fit my flesh
So tightly and so TWEEDIE-ly?"

The phantom said, "You'll have all this,
You'll know no kind of huffiness,
Your life will be one chubby bliss,
One long unruffled puffiness!"

"Be off!" said irritated BOB.
"Why come you here to bother one?
You pharisaical old snob,
You're wuss almost than t'other one!"

"I takes my pipe—I takes my pot,
And drunk I'm never seen to be:
I'm no teetotaller or sot,
And as I am I mean to be!"





THE STORY OF PRINCE AGIB.

STRIKE the concertina's melancholy string!
Blow the spirit-stirring harp like anything!
Let the piano's martial blast
Rouse the Echoes of the Past,
For of AGIB, PRINCE OF TARTARY, I sing!

Of AGIB, who, amid Tartaric scenes,
Wrote a lot of ballet music in his teens:
His gentle spirit rolls
In the melody of souls—
Which is pretty, but I don't know what it means.

Of AGIB, who could readily, at sight,
Strum a march upon the loud Theodolite.
He would diligently play
On the Zoetrope all day,
And blow the gay Pantechnicon all night.

One winter—I am shaky in my dates—
Came two starving Tartar minstrels to his gates ;
 Oh, ALLAH be obeyed,
 How infernally they played !
I remember that they called themselves the "Oüaits."

Oh ! that day of sorrow, misery, and rage,
I shall carry to the Catacombs of Age,
 Photographically lined
 On the tablet of my mind,
When a yesterday has faded from its page !

Alas ! PRINCE AGIB went and asked them in ;
Gave them beer, and eggs, and sweets, and scent, and tin.
 And when (as snobs would say)
 They had "put it all away,"
He requested them to tune up and begin.

Though its icy horror chill you to the core,
I will tell you what I never told before,—
 The consequences true
 Of that awful interview,
For I listened at the keyhole in the door !

They played him a sonata—let me see !
" *Medulla oblongata* "—key of G.
 Then they began to sing
 That extremely lovely thing,
" *Scherzando ! ma non troppo, ppp.* "



He gave them money, more than they could count,
Scent from a most ingenious little fount,
More beer, in little kegs,
Many dozen hard-boiled eggs,
And goodies to a fabulous amount.

Now follows the dim horror of my tale,
And I feel I'm growing gradually pale,
For, even at this day,
Though its sting has passed away,
When I venture to remember it, I quail!

The elder of the brothers gave a squeal,
All-overish it made me for to feel;
"Oh, PRINCE," he says, says he,
"If a Prince indeed you be,
I've a mystery I'm going to reveal!

"Oh, listen, if you'd shun a horrid death,
 To what the gent who's speaking to you saith:
 No 'Oüaits' in truth are we,
 As you fancy that we be,
 For (ter-remble!) I am ALECK—this is BETH!"



Said AGIB, "Oh! accursed of your kind,
 I have heard that ye are men of evil mind!"
 BETH gave a dreadful shriek—
 But before he'd time to speak
 I was mercilessly collared from behind.

In number ten or twelve, or even more,
 They fastened me, full length, upon the floor.
 On my face extended flat,
 I was walloped with a cat
 For listening at the keyhole of a door.

Oh ! the horror of that agonizing thrill !
(I can feel the place in frosty weather still).
For a week from ten to four
I was fastened to the floor,
While a mercenary wopped me with a will !

They branded me and broke me on a wheel,
And they left me in an hospital to heal ;
And, upon my solemn word,
I have never never heard
What those Tartars had determined to reveal.

But that day of sorrow, misery, and rage,
I shall carry to the Catacombs of Age,
Photographically lined
On the tablet of my mind,
When a yesterday has faded from its page !





ELLEN McJONES ABERDEEN.

MACPHAIRSON CLONGLOCKETTY ANGUS McCLAN
 Was the son of an elderly labouring man;
 You've guessed him a Scotchman, shrewd reader, at sight,
 And p'raps altogether, shrewd reader, you're right.

From the bonnie blue Forth to the lovely Deeside,
 Round by Dingwall and Wrath to the mouth of the Clyde,
 There wasn't a child or a woman or man
 Who could pipe with CLONGLOCKETTY ANGUS McCLAN.

No other could wake such detestable groans,
 With reed and with chaunter—with bag and with drones:
 All day and all night he delighted the chiefs
 With sniggering pibrochs and jiggety reels.

He'd clamber a mountain and squat on the ground,
And the neigghouring maidens would gather around
To list to the pipes and to gaze in his een,
Especially ELLEN McJONES ABERDEEN.

All loved their McCLAN, save a Sassenach brute,
Who came to the Highlands to fish and to shoot;
He dressed himself up in a Highlander way,
Tho' his name it was PATTISON CORBY TORBAY.

TORBAY had incurred a good deal of expense
To make him a Scotchman in every sense;
But this is a matter, you'll readily own,
That isn't a question of tailors alone.

A Sassenach chief may be bonily built,
He may purchase a sporran, a bonnet, and kilt;
Stick a skeän in his hose—wear an acre of stripes—
But he cannot assume an affection for pipes.

CLONGLOCKETTY's pipings all night and all day
Quite frenzied poor PATTISON CORBY TORBAY;
The girls were amused at his singular spleen,
Especially ELLEN McJONES ABERDEEN.

“MACPHAIRSON CLONGLOCKETTY ANGUS, my lad,
With pibrochs and reels you are driving me mad.
If you really must play on that cursed affair,
My goodness! play something resembling an air.”



Boiled over the blood of MACPHAIRSON MCCLAN—
The Clan of Clonglocketty rose as one man ;
For all were enraged at the insult, I ween—
Especially ELLEN MCJONES ABERDEEN.

"Let's show," said MCCLAN, "to this Sassenach loon
That the bagpipes *can* play him a regular tune.
Let's see," said MCCLAN, as he thoughtfully sat,
"*In my Cottage*' is easy—I'll practise at that."

He blew at his "Cottage," and blew with a will,
For a year, seven months, and a fortnight, until
(You'll hardly believe it) MCCLAN, I declare,
Elicited something resembling an air.

It was wild—it was fitful—as wild as the breeze—
It wandered about into several keys;
It was jerky, spasmodic, and harsh, I'm aware;
But still it distinctly suggested an air.

The Sassenach screamed, and the Sassenach danced;
He shrieked in his agony—bellowed and pranced;
And the maidens who gathered rejoiced at the scene—
Especially ELLEN McJONES ABERDEEN.

“Hech gather, hech gather, hech gather around;
And fill a' ye lugs wi' the exquisite sound.
An air fra' the bagpipes—beat that if ye can!
Hurrah for CLONGLOCKETTY ANGUS McCLAN!”

The fame of his piping spread over the land:
Respectable widows proposed for his hand,
And maidens came flocking to sit on the green—
Especially ELLEN McJONES ABERDEEN.

One morning the fidgety Sassenach swore
He'd stand it no longer—he drew his claymore,
And (this was, I think, in extremely bad taste)
Divided CLONGLOCKETTY close to the waist.

Oh! loud were the wailings for ANGUS McCLAN,
Oh! deep was the grief for that excellent man;
The maids stood aghast at the horrible scene—
Especially ELLEN McJONES ABERDEEN.

It sorrowed poor PATTISON CORBY TORBAY
To find them "take on" in this serious way;
He pitied the poor little fluttering birds,
And solaced their souls with the following words:

"Oh, maidens," said PATTISON, touching his hat,
"Don't blubber, my dears, for a fellow like that;
Observe, I'm a very superior man,
A much better fellow than ANGUS McCLAN."



They smiled when he winked and addressed them as "dears,"
And they all of them vowed, as they dried up their tears,
A pleasanter gentleman never was seen—
Especially ELLEN McJONES ABERDEEN.



PETER THE WAG.

POLICEMAN PETER FORTH I drag
From his obscure retreat :
He was a merry genial wag,
Who loved a mad conceit.
If he were asked the time of day
By country bumpkins green,
He not unfrequently would say,
"A quarter past thirteen."

If ever you by word of mouth
Inquired of MISTER FORTH
The way to somewhere in the South,
He always sent you North.

With little boys his beat along
He loved to stop and play ;
He loved to send old ladies wrong,
And teach their feet to stray.

He would in frolic moments, when
Such mischief bent upon,
Take Bishops up as betting men—
Bid Ministers move on.
Then all the worthy boys he knew
He regularly licked,
And always collared people who
Had had their pockets picked.

He was not naturally bad,
Or viciously inclined,
But from his early youth he had
A waggish turn of mind.
The Men of London grimly scowled
With indignation wild ;
The Men of London gruffly growled,
But PETER calmly smiled.

Against this minion of the Crown
The swelling murmurs grew—
From Camberwell to Kentish Town—
From Rotherhithe to Kew.
Still humoured he his wagsome turn,
And fed in various ways
The coward rage that dared to burn,
But did not dare to blaze.

Still, Retribution has her day,
 Although her flight is slow:
One day that Crusher lost his way
Near Poland Street, Soho.
 The haughty boy, too proud to ask,
 To find his way resolved,
 And in the tangle of his task
 Got more and more involved.

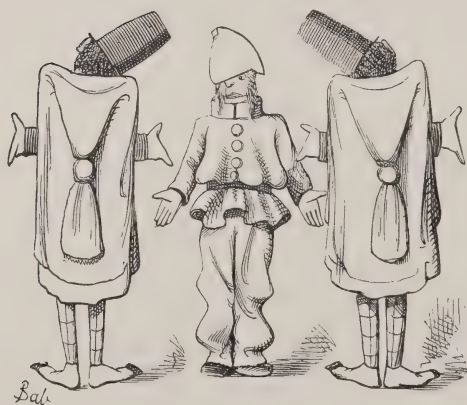
The Men of London, overjoyed,
 Came there to jeer their foe,
 And flocking crowds completely cloyed
 The mazes of Soho.
 The news on telegraphic wires
 Sped swiftly o'er the lea,
 Excursion trains from distant shires
 Brought myriads to see.



For weeks he trod his self-made beats
 Through Newport- Gerrard- Bear-
 Greek- Rupert- Frith- Dean- Poland-streets,
 And into Golden Square.

But all, alas! in vain, for when
 He tried to learn the way
 Of little boys or grown-up men,
 They none of them would say.

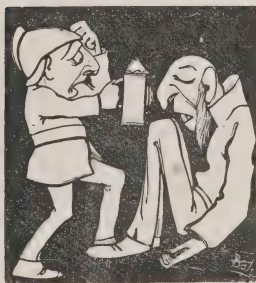
Their eyes would flash—their teeth would grind—
 Their lips would tightly curl—
 They'd say, "Thy way thyself must find,
 Thou misdirecting churl!"
 And, similarly, also, when
 He tried a foreign friend;
 Italians answered, "*Il balen*"—
 The French, "No comprehend."



The Russ would say with gleaming eye
 "Sevastopol!" and groan.
 The Greek said, *τυπτω, τυπτομαι,*
τυπτω, τυπεω, τυπτων."

To wander thus for many a year
That Crusher never ceased—
The Men of London dropped a tear,
Their anger was appeased.

At length exploring gangs were sent
To find poor FORTH's remains—
A handsome grant by Parliament
Was voted for their pains.
To seek the poor policeman out
Bold spirits volunteered,
And when they swore they'd solve the doubt,
The Men of London cheered.



And in a yard, dark, dank, and drear,
They found him, on the floor—
It leads from Richmond Buildings—near
The Royalty stage-door.
With brandy cold and brandy hot
They plied him, starved and wet,
And made him sergeant on the spot—
The Men of London's pet!

TO THE TERRESTRIAL GLOBE.

BY A MISERABLE WRETCH.

ROLL on, thou ball, roll on!
Through pathless realms of Space

Roll on!

What though I'm in a sorry case?
What though I cannot meet my bills?
What though I suffer toothache's ills?
What though I swallow countless pills?

Never *you* mind!

Roll on!

Roll on, thou ball, roll on!
Through seas of inky air

Roll on!

It's true I've got no shirts to wear;
It's true my butcher's bill is due;
It's true my prospects all look blue—
But don't let that unsettle you!

Never *you* mind!

Roll on!

[*It rolls on.*]



GENTLE ALICE BROWN.

IT was a robber's daughter, and her name was ALICE BROWN,
Her father was the terror of a small Italian town;
Her mother was a foolish, weak, but amiable old thing;
But it isn't of her parents that I'm going for to sing.

As ALICE was a-sitting at her window-sill one day,
A beautiful young gentleman he chanced to pass that way;
She cast her eyes upon him, and he looked so good and true,
That she thought, "I could be happy with a gentleman like you!"

And every morning passed her house that cream of gentlemen,
She knew she might expect him at a quarter unto ten;
A sorter in the Custom-house, it was his daily road
(The Custom-house was fifteen minutes' walk from her abode).

But ALICE was a pious girl, who knew it wasn't wise
To look at strange young sorters with expressive purple eyes;
So she sought the village priest to whom her family confessed,
The priest by whom their little sins were carefully assessed.

"Oh, holy father," ALICE said, "'t would grieve you, would it not,
To discover that I was a most disreputable lot?
Of all unhappy sinners I'm the most unhappy one!"
The padre said, "Whatever have you been and gone and done?"

"I have helped mamma to steal a little kiddy from its dad,
I've assisted dear papa in cutting up a little lad,
I've planned a little burglary and forged a little cheque,
And slain a little baby for the coral on its neck!"

The worthy pastor heaved a sigh, and dropped a silent tear,
And said, "You mustn't judge yourself too heavily, my dear:
It's wrong to murder babies, little corals for to fleece;
But sins like these one expiates at half-a-crown apiece.

“Girls will be girls—you’re very young, and flighty in your mind ;
Old heads upon young shoulders we must not expect to find :
We mustn’t be too hard upon these little girlish tricks—
Let’s see—five crimes at half-a-crown—exactly twelve-and-six.”

“Oh, father,” little ALICE cried, “your kindness makes me weep,
You do these little things for me so singularly cheap—
Your thoughtful liberality I never can forget ;
But, oh ! there is another crime I haven’t mentioned yet !

“A pleasant-looking gentleman, with pretty purple eyes,
I’ve noticed at my window, as I’ve sat a-catching flies ;
He passes by it every day as certain as can be—
I blush to say I’ve winked at him, and he has winked at me !”

“For shame !” said FATHER PAUL, “my erring daughter ! On my
word

.This is the most distressing news that I have ever heard.
Why, naughty girl, your excellent papa has pledged your hand
To a promising young robber, the lieutenant of his band !

“This dreadful piece of news will pain your worthy parents so !
They are the most remunerative customers I know ;
For many many years they’ve kept starvation from my doors :
I never knew so criminal a family as yours !



"The common country folk in this insipid neighbourhood
Have nothing to confess, they're so ridiculously good;
And if you marry any one respectable at all,
Why, you'll reform, and what will then become of FATHER PAUL?"

The worthy priest, he up and drew his cowl upon his crown,
And started off in haste to tell the news to ROBBER BROWN—
To tell him how his daughter, who was now for marriage fit,
Had winked upon a sorter, who reciprocated it.

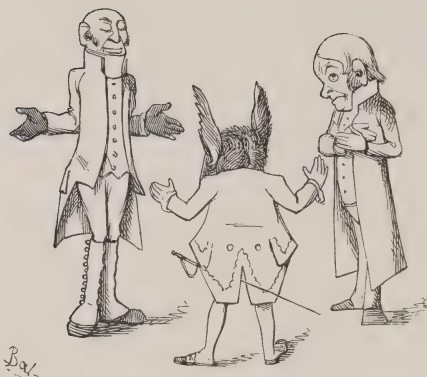
Good ROBBER BROWN he muffled up his anger pretty well:
He said "I have a notion, and that notion I will tell;
I will nab this gay young sorter, terrify him into fits,
And get my gentle wife to chop him into little bits.

"I've studied human nature, and I know a thing or two :
Though a girl may fondly love a living gent, as many do—
A feeling of disgust upon her senses there will fall
When she looks upon his body chopped particularly small."

He traced that gallant sorter to a still suburban square ;
He watched his opportunity, and seized him unaware ;
He took a life-preserver and he hit him on the head,
And MRS. BROWN dissected him before she went to bed.

And pretty little ALICE grew more settled in her mind,
She never more was guilty of a weakness of the kind,
Until at length good ROBBER BROWN bestowed her pretty hand
On the promising young robber, the lieutenant of his band.





MISTER WILLIAM.

OH, listen to the tale of MISTER WILLIAM, if you please,
Whom naughty, naughty Judges sent away beyond the seas.
He forged a party's will, which caused anxiety and strife,
Resulting in his getting penal servitude for life.

He was a kindly goodly man, and naturally prone,
Instead of taking others' gold, to give away his own.
But he had heard of Vice, and longed for only once to strike—
To plan *one* little wickedness—to see what it was like.

He argued with himself, and said, "A spotless man am I;
I can't be more respectable, however hard I try;
For six and thirty years I've always been as good as gold,
And now for half an hour I'll plan infamy untold!

“A baby who is wicked at the early age of one,
And then reforms—and dies at thirty-six a spotless son,
Is never, never saddled with his babyhood’s defect,
But earns from worthy men consideration and respect.

“So one who never revelled in discreditable tricks
Until he reached the comfortable age of thirty-six,
May then for half an hour perpetrate a deed of shame,
Without incurring permanent disgrace, or even blame.

“That babies don’t commit such crimes as forgery is true,
But little sins develop, if you leave ’em to accrue;
And he who shuns all vices as successive seasons roll,
Should reap at length the benefit of so much self-control.

“The common sin of babyhood—objecting to be drest—
If you leave it to accumulate at compound interest,
For anything you know, may represent, if you’re alive,
A burglary or murder at the age of thirty-five.

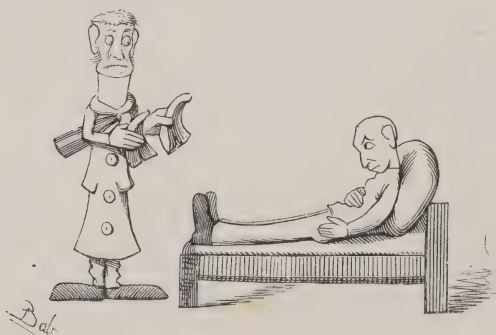
“Still, I wouldn’t take advantage of this fact, but be content
With some pardonable folly—it’s a mere experiment.
The greater the temptation to go wrong, the less the sin;
So with something that’s particularly tempting I’ll begin.

“I would not steal a penny, for my income’s very fair—
I do not want a penny—I have pennies and to spare—
And if I stole a penny from a money-bag or till,
The sin would be enormous—the temptation being *nil*.

"But if I broke asunder all such pettifogging bounds,
And forged a party's Will for (say) Five Hundred Thousand
Pounds,
With such an irresistible temptation to a haul,
Of course the sin must be infinitesimally small.

"There's WILSON who is dying—he has wealth from Stock and
rent—
If I divert his riches from their natural descent,
I'm placed in a position to indulge each little whim."
So he diverted them—and they, in turn, diverted him.

Unfortunately, though, by some unpardonable flaw,
Temptation isn't recognized by Britain's Common Law;
Men found him out by some peculiarity of touch,
And WILLIAM got a "lifer," which annoyed him very much.



For, ah! he never reconciled himself to life in gaol,
He fretted and he pined, and grew dispirited and pale;
He was numbered like a cabman, too, which told upon him so
That his spirits, once so buoyant, grew uncomfortably low.

And sympathetic gaolers would remark, "It's very true,
He ain't been brought up common, like the likes of me and you."
So they took him into hospital, and gave him mutton chops,
And chocolate, and arrowroot, and buns, and malt and hops.

Kind Clergymen, besides, grew interested in his fate,
Affected by the details of his pitiable state.
They waited on the Secretary, somewhere in Whitehall,
Who said he would receive them any day they liked to call.

"Consider, sir, the hardship of this interesting case :
A prison life brings with it something very like disgrace ;
It's telling on young WILLIAM, who's reduced to skin and bone—
Remember he's a gentleman, with money of his own.

"He had an ample income, and of course he stands in need
Of sherry with his dinner, and his customary weed ;
No delicacies now can pass his gentlemanly lips—
He misses his sea-bathing and his continental trips.

"He says the other prisoners are commonplace and rude ;
He says he cannot relish uncongenial prison food.
When quite a boy they taught him to distinguish Good from Bad,
And other educational advantages he's had.

"A burglar or garotter, or, indeed, a common thief
Is very glad to batten on potatoes and on beef,
Or anything, in short, that prison kitchens can afford,—
A cut above the diet in a common workhouse ward.

"But beef and mutton-broth don't seem to suit our WILLIAM'S
whim,

A boon to other prisoners—a punishment to him.

It never was intended that the discipline of gaol

Should dash a convict's spirits, sir, or make him thin or pale."

"Good Gracious Me!" that sympathetic Secretary cried,

"Suppose in prison fetters MISTER WILLIAM should have died!

Dear me, of course! Imprisonment for *Life* his sentence saith:

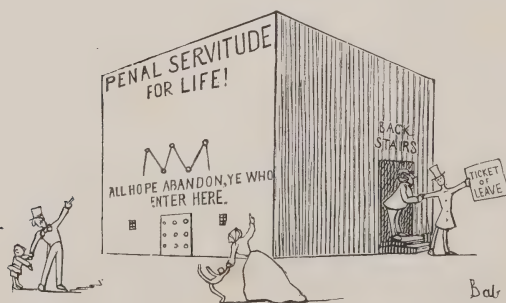
I'm very glad you mentioned it—it might have been For Death!

"Release him with a ticket—he'll be better then, no doubt,

And tell him I apologize." So MISTER WILLIAM'S out.

I hope he will be careful in his manuscripts, I'm sure,

And not begin experimentalizing any more.





THE BUMBOAT WOMAN'S STORY.

I 'M old, my dears, and shrivelled with age, and work, and grief,
My eyes are gone, and my teeth have been drawn by Time,
the Thief!

For terrible sights I've seen, and dangers great I've run—
I'm nearly seventy now, and my work is almost done!

Ah! I've been young in my time, and I've played the deuce with
men!

I'm speaking of ten years past—I was barely sixty then:
My cheeks were mellow and soft, and my eyes were large and sweet,
POLL PINEAPPLE'S eyes were the standing toast of the Royal Fleet!

A bumboat woman was I, and I faithfully served the ships
With apples and cakes, and fowls and beer, and halfpenny dips,
And beef for the generous mess, where the officers dine at nights,
And fine fresh peppermint drops for the rollicking midshipmites.

Of all the kind commanders who anchored in Portsmouth Bay,
By far the sweetest of all was kind LIEUTENANT BELAYE.

LIEUTENANT BELAYE commanded the gunboat *Hot Cross Bun*,
She was seven and thirty feet in length, and she carried a gun.

With a laudable view of enhancing his country's naval pride,
When people inquired her size, LIEUTENANT BELAYE replied,
"Oh, my ship, my ship is the first of the Hundred and Seventy-ones!"
Which meant her tonnage, but people imagined it meant her guns.

Whenever I went on board he would beckon me down below,
"Come down, Little Buttercup, come" (for he loved to call me so),
And he'd tell of the fights at sea in which he'd taken a part,
And so LIEUTENANT BELAYE won poor POLL PINEAPPLE's heart!

But at length his orders came, and he said one day, said he,
"I'm ordered to sail with the *Hot Cross Bun* to the German Sea."
And the Portsmouth maidens wept when they learnt the evil day,
For every Portsmouth maid loved good LIEUTENANT BELAYE.

And I went to a back back street, with plenty of cheap cheap shops,
And I bought an oilskin hat and a second-hand suit of slops,
And I went to LIEUTENANT BELAYE (and he never suspected *me!*)
And I entered myself as a chap as wanted to go to sea.

We sailed that afternoon at the mystic hour of one,—
Remarkably nice young men were the crew of the *Hot Cross Bun*.
I'm sorry to say that I've heard that sailors sometimes swear,
But I never yet heard a *Bun* say anything wrong, I declare.



When Jack Tars meet, they meet with a "Messmate, ho! What cheer?"

But here, on the *Hot Cross Bun*, it was "How do you do, my dear?"
When Jack Tars growl, I believe they growl with a big big D—
But the strongest oath of the *Hot Cross Buns* was a mild "Dear me!"

Yet, though they were all well-bred, you could scarcely call them
slick :

Whenever a sea was on, they were all extremely sick ;
And whenever the weather was calm, and the wind was light and
fair,

They spent more time than a sailor should on his back back hair.

They certainly shivered and shook when ordered aloft to run,
And they screamed when LIEUTENANT BELAYE discharged his only
gun.

And as he was proud of his gun—such pride is hardly wrong—
The Lieutenant was blazing away at intervals all day long.

They all agreed very well, though at times you heard it said
That BILL had a way of his own of making his lips look red—
That JOE looked quite his age—or somebody might declare
That BARNACLE'S long pig-tail was never his own own hair.

BELAYE would admit that his men were of no great use to him,
"But then," he would say, "there is little to do on a gunboat trim.
I can hand, and reef, and steer, and fire my big gun too—
And it *is* such a treat to sail with a gentle well-bred crew."

I saw him every day. How the happy moments sped !
Reef topsails ! Make all taut ! There's dirty weather ahead !
(I do not mean that tempests threatened the *Hot Cross Bun* :
In *that* case, I don't know whatever we *should* have done !)

After a fortnight's cruise, we put into port one day,
And off on leave for a week went kind LIEUTENANT BELAYE,
And after a long long week had passed (and it seemed like a life),
LIEUTENANT BELAYE returned to his ship with a fair young wife!

He up, and he says, says he, "O crew of the *Hot Cross Bun*,
Here is the wife of my heart, for the Church has made us one!"
And as he uttered the word, the crew went out of their wits,
And all fell down in so many separate fainting-fits.



And then their hair came down, or off, as the case might be,
And lo! the rest of the crew were simple girls, like me,
Who all had fled from their homes in a sailor's blue array,
To follow the shifting fate of kind LIEUTENANT BELAYE.

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It's strange to think that *I* should ever have loved young men,
But I'm speaking of ten years past—I was barely sixty then,
And now my cheeks are furrowed with grief and age, I trow!
And poor POLL PINEAPPLE's eyes have lost their lustre now!



LOST MR. BLAKE.

MR. BLAKE was a regular out-and-out hardened sinner,
Who was quite out of the pale of Christianity, so to speak,
He was in the habit of smoking a long pipe and drinking a glass of
grog on a Sunday after dinner,
And seldom thought of going to church more than twice or—if
Good Friday or Christmas Day happened to come in it—
three times a week.

He was quite indifferent as to the particular kinds of dresses
That the clergyman wore at church where he used to go to pray,
And whatever he did in the way of relieving a chap's distresses,
He always did in a nasty, sneaking, underhanded, hole-and-corner
sort of way.

I have known him indulge in profane, ungentlemanly emphatics,
When the Protestant Church has been divided on the subject of
the proper width of a chasuble's hem ;
I have even known him to sneer at albs—and as for dalmatics,
Words can't convey an idea of the contempt he expressed for *them*.

He didn't believe in persons who, not being well off themselves, are
obliged to confine their charitable exertions to collecting money
from wealthier people,
And looked upon individuals of the former class as ecclesiastical
hawks ;
He used to say that he would no more think of interfering with his
priest's robes than with his church or his steeple,
And that he did not consider his soul imperilled because some-
body over whom he had no influence whatever, chose to dress
himself up like an exaggerated GUY FAWKES.

This shocking old vagabond was so unutterably shameless
That he actually went a-courting a very respectable and pious middle-
aged sister, by the name of BIGGS.
She was a rather attractive widow, whose life as such had always been
particularly blameless ;
Her first husband had left her a secure but moderate competence,
owing to some fortunate speculations in the matter of figs.

She was an excellent person in every way—and won the respect even
of MRS. GRUNDY,
She was a good housewife, too, and wouldn't have wasted a penny
if she had owned the Koh-i-noor.

She was just as strict as he was lax in her observance of Sunday,
And being a good economist, and charitable besides, she took all
the bones and cold potatoes and broken pie-crusts and candle-
ends (when she had quite done with them), and made them
into an excellent soup for the deserving poor.

I am sorry to say that she rather took to BLAKE—that outcast of
society,

And when respectable brothers who were fond of her began to look
dubious and to cough,

She would say, “Oh, my friends, it’s because I hope to bring this
poor benighted soul back to virtue and propriety,”

And besides, the poor benighted soul, with all his faults, was
uncommonly well off.

And when MR. BLAKE’s dissipated friends called his attention to the
frown or the pout of her,

Whenever he did anything which appeared to her to savour of an
unmentionable place,

He would say that “she would be a very decent old girl when all that
nonsense was knocked out of her,”

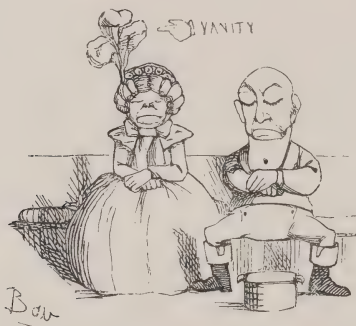
And his method of knocking it out of her is one that covered him
with disgrace.

She was fond of going to church services four times every Sunday,
and four or five times in the week, and never seemed to pall
of them,

So he hunted out all the churches within a convenient distance
that had services at different hours, so to speak;

And when he had married her he positively insisted upon their going
to all of them,

So they contrived to do about twelve churches every Sunday, and,
if they had luck, from twenty-two to twenty-three in the course
of the week.



She was fond of dropping his sovereigns ostentatiously into the plate,
and she liked to see them stand out rather conspicuously against
the commonplace half-crowns and shillings,

So he took her to all the charity sermons, and if by any extra-
ordinary chance there wasn't a charity sermon anywhere, he
would drop a couple of sovereigns (one for him and one for
her) into the poor-box at the door;

And as he always deducted the sums thus given in charity from the
housekeeping money, and the money he allowed her for her
bonnets and frillings,

She soon began to find that even charity, if you allow it to interfere
with your personal luxuries, becomes an intolerable bore.

On Sundays she was always melancholy and anything but good
society,

For that day in her household was a day of sighings and sobbings
and wringing of hands and shaking of heads:

She wouldn't hear of a button being sewn on a glove, because it was a work neither of necessity nor of piety,

And strictly prohibited her servants from amusing themselves, or indeed doing anything at all except dusting the drawing-rooms, cleaning the boots and shoes, cooking the parlour dinner, waiting generally on the family, and making the beds.



But BLAKE even went further than that, and said that people should do their own works of necessity, and not delegate them to persons in a menial situation,

So he wouldn't allow his servants to do so much as even answer a bell.

Here he is making his wife carry up the water for her bath to the second floor, much against her inclination,—

And why in the world the gentleman who illustrates these ballads has put him in a cocked hat is more than I can tell.

After about three months of this sort of thing, taking the smooth with the rough of it,

(Blackening her own boots and peeling her own potatoes was not her notion of connubial bliss),

MRS. BLAKE began to find that she had pretty nearly had enough of it,

And came, in course of time, to think that BLAKE's own original line of conduct wasn't so much amiss.

And now that wicked person—that detestable sinner ("BELIAL BLAKE" his friends and well-wishers call him for his atrocities),

And his poor deluded victim, whom all her Christian brothers dislike and pity so,

Go to the parish church only on Sunday morning and afternoon and occasionally on a week-day, and spend their evenings in conubial fondlings and affectionate reciprocities,

And I should like to know where in the world (or rather, out of it) they expect to go!





THE BABY'S VENGEANCE.

WEARY at heart and extremely ill
Was PALEY VOLLAIRE of Bromptonville,
In a dirty lodging, with fever down,
Close to the Polygon, Somers Town.

PALEY VOLLAIRE was an only son
(For why? His mother had had but one),
And PALEY inherited gold and grounds
Worth several hundred thousand pounds.

But he, like many a rich young man,
Through this magnificent fortune ran,
And nothing was left for his daily needs
But duplicate copies of mortgage-deeds.

Shabby and sorry and sorely sick,
He slept, and dreamt that the clock's "tick, tick,"
Was one of the Fates, with a long sharp knife,
Snicking off bits of his shortened life.

He woke and counted the pips on the walls,
The outdoor passengers' loud footfalls,
And reckoned all over, and reckoned again,
The little white tufts on his counterpane.

A medical man to his bed-side came,
(I can't remember that doctor's name),
And said, "You'll die in a very short while
If you don't set sail for Madeira's isle."

"Go to Madeira? goodness me!
I haven't the money to pay your fee!"
"Then, PALEY VOLLAIRE," said the leech, "good bye;
I'll come no more, for you're sure to die."

He sighed and he groaned and smote his breast;
"Oh, send," said he, "for FREDERICK WEST,
Ere senses fade or my eyes grow dim:
I've a terrible tale to whisper him!"

Poor was FREDERICK'S lot in life,—
A dustman he with a fair young wife,
A worthy man with a hard-earned store,
A hundred and seventy pounds—or more.



FREDERICK came, and he said, "Maybe
 You'll say what you happened to want with me?"
 "Wronged boy," said PALEY VOLLAIRE, "I will,
 But don't you fidget yourself—sit still."

THE TERRIBLE TALE.

"T is now some thirty-seven years ago
 Since first began the plot that I'm revealing,
 A fine young woman, whom you ought to know,
 Lived with her husband down in Drum Lane, Ealing.
 Herself by means of mangling reimbursing,
 And now and then (at intervals) wet-nursing.

"Two little babes dwelt in their humble cot:
 One was her own—the other only lent to her:
Her own she slighted. Tempted by a lot
 Of gold and silver regularly sent to her,
 She ministered unto the little other
 In the capacity of foster-mother.

"*I was her own.* . Oh! how I lay and sobbed
In my poor cradle—deeply, deeply cursing
The rich man's pampered bantling, who had robbed
My only birthright—an attentive nursing!
Sometimes in hatred of my foster-brother,
I gnashed my gums—which terrified my mother.



"One day—it was quite early in the week—
I *in MY cradle having placed the bantling*—
Crept into his! He had not learnt to speak,
But I could see his face with anger mantling.
It was imprudent—well, disgraceful maybe,
For, oh! I was a bad, blackhearted baby!

"So great a luxury was food, I think
No wickedness but I was game to try for it.
Now if I wanted anything to drink
At any time, I only had to cry for it!
Once, if I dared to weep, the bottle lacking,
My blubbering involved a serious smacking!

“We grew up in the usual way—my friend,
My foster-brother, daily growing thinner,
While gradually I began to mend,
And thrived amazingly on double dinner.
And every one, besides my foster-mother,
Believed that either of us was the other.

“I came into *his* wealth—I bore *his* name,
I bear it still—*his* property I squandered—
I mortgaged everything—and now (oh, shame!)
Into a Somers Town shake-down I’ve wandered!
I am no PALEY—no VOLLAIRE—it’s true, my boy!
The only rightful PALEY V. is *you*, my boy!

“And all I have is yours—and yours is mine.
I still may place you in your true position:
Give me the pounds you’ve saved, and I’ll resign
My noble name, my rank, and my condition.
So far my wickedness in falsely owning
Your vasty wealth, I am at last atoning!”

* * * * *

FREDERICK he was a simple soul,
He pulled from his pocket a bulky roll,
And gave to PALEY his hard-earned store,
A hundred and seventy pounds or more.

PALEY VOLLAIRE, with many a groan,
Gave FREDERICK all that he called his own,—
Two shirts and a sock, and a vest of jean,
A Wellington boot and a bamboo cane.

And FRED (entitled to all things there)
He took the fever from MR. VOLLAIRE,
Which killed poor FREDERICK WEST. Meanwhile
VOLLAIRE sailed off to Madeira's isle.





THE CAPTAIN AND THE MERMAIDS.

I SING a legend of the sea,
So hard-a-port upon your lee !
A ship on starboard tack !
She's bound upon a private cruise—
(This is the kind of spice I use
To give a salt-sea smack).

Behold, on every afternoon
(Save in a gale or strong Monsoon)
Great CAPTAIN CAPEL CLEGGs
(Great morally, though rather short)
Sat at an open weather-port
And aired his shapely legs.

And Mermaids hung around in flocks,
On cable chains and distant rocks,
 To gaze upon those limbs;
For legs like those, of flesh and bone,
Are things "not generally known"
 To any Merman TIMBS.

But Mermen didn't seem to care
Much time (as far as I'm aware)
 With CLEGGs's legs to spend;
Though Mermaids swam around all day
And gazed, exclaiming, "*That's* the way
 A gentleman should end!

"A pair of legs with well-cut knees,
And calves and ankles such as these
 Which we in rapture hail,
Are far more eloquent, it's clear
(When clothed in silk and kerseymere)
 Than any nasty tail."

And CLEGGs—a worthy kind old boy—
Rejoiced to add to others' joy,
 And, when the day was dry,
Because it pleased the lookers-on,
He sat from morn till night—though con-
 stitutionally shy.

At first the Mermen laughed, "Pooh! pooh!"
But finally they jealous grew,
 And sounded loud recalls;

But vainly. So these fishy males
Declared they too would clothe their tails
In silken hose and smalls.

They set to work, these water-men,
And made their nether robes—but when
They drew with dainty touch
The kerseymere upon their tails,
They found it scraped against their scales,
And hurt them very much.

The silk, besides, with which they chose
To deck their tails by way of hose
(They never thought of shoon),
For such a use was much too thin,—
It tore against the caudal fin,
And “went in ladders” soon.

So they designed another plan :
They sent their most seductive man
This note to him to show—
“Our Monarch sends to CAPTAIN CLEGGS
His humble compliments, and begs
He’ll join him down below ;

“We’ve pleasant homes below the sea—
Besides, if CAPTAIN CLEGGS should be
(As our advices say)
A judge of Mermaids, he will find
Our lady-fish of every kind
Inspection will repay.”

Good CAPEL sent a kind reply,
For CAPEL thought he could descry
An admirable plan
To study all their ways and laws—
(But not their lady-fish, because
He was a married man).

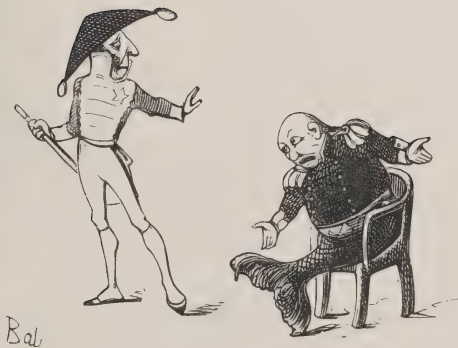


The Merman sank—the Captain too
Jumped overboard, and dropped from view
Like stone from catapault;
And when he reached the Merman's lair
He certainly was welcomed there,
But, ah! with what result?

They didn't let him learn their law,
Or make a note of what he saw,
Or interesting mem.:

The lady-fish he couldn't find,
But that, of course, he didn't mind—
He didn't come for them.

For though, when CAPTAIN CAPEL sank,
The Mermen drawn in double rank
Gave him a hearty hail,
Yet when secure of CAPTAIN CLEGGs,
They cut off both his lovely legs,
And gave him *such* a tail !



When CAPTAIN CLEGGs returned aboard,
His blithesome crew convulsive roar'd,
To see him altered so.
The Admiralty did insist
That he upon the Half-pay List
Immediately should go.

In vain declared the poor old salt,
"It's my misfortune—not my fault,"
 With tear and trembling lip—
In vain poor CAPEL begged and begged.
"A man must be completely legged
Who rules a British ship."

So spake the stern First Lord aloud—
He was a wag, though very proud,
 And much rejoiced to say,
"You're only half a captain now—
And so, my worthy friend, I vow
 You'll only get half-pay!"





ANNIE PROTHEROE.

A LEGEND OF STRATFORD-LE-BOW.

OH! listen to the tale of little ANNIE PROTHEROE.
She kept a small post-office in the neighbourhood of Bow;
She loved a skilled mechanic, who was famous in his day—
A gentle executioner whose name was GILBERT CLAY.

I think I hear you say, "A dreadful subject for your rhymes!"
O reader, do not shrink—he didn't live in modern times!
He lived so long ago (the sketch will show it at a glance)
That all his actions glitter with the lime-light of Romance.

In busy times he laboured at his gentle craft all day—
"No doubt you mean his Cal-craft" you amusingly will say—
But, no—he didn't operate with common bits of string,
He was a Public Headsman, which is quite another thing.

And when his work was over, they would ramble o'er the lea,
And sit beneath the frondage of an elderberry tree.
And ANNIE'S simple prattle entertained him on his walk,
For public executions formed the subject of her talk.

And sometimes he'd explain to her, which charmed her very much,
How famous operators vary very much in touch,
And then, perhaps, he'd show how he himself performed the trick,
And illustrate his meaning with a poppy and a stick.

Or, if it rained, the little maid would stop at home, and look
At his favourable notices, all pasted in a book,
And then her cheek would flush—her swimming eyes would dance
 with joy
In a glow of admiration at the prowess of her boy.

One summer eve, at supper-time, the gentle GILBERT said
(As he helped his pretty ANNIE to a slice of collared head),
"This reminds me I must settle on the next ensuing day
The hash of that unmitigated villain PETER GRAY."

He saw his ANNIE tremble and he saw his ANNIE start,
Her changing colour trumpeted the flutter at her heart ;
Young GILBERT's manly bosom rose and sank with jealous fear,
And he said, " O gentle ANNIE, what's the meaning of this here ? "

And ANNIE answered, blushing in an interesting way,
" You think, no doubt, I'm sighing for that felon PETER GRAY :
That I was his young woman is unquestionably true,
But not since I began a-keeping company with you. "



Then GILBERT, who was irritable, rose and loudly swore
He'd know the reason why if she refused to tell him more ;
And she answered (all the woman in her flashing from her eyes),
" You mustn't ask no questions, and you won't be told no lies ! "

" Few lovers have the privilege enjoyed, my dear, by you,
Of chopping off a rival's head and quartering him too !
Of vengeance, dear, to-morrow you will surely take your fill ! "
And GILBERT ground his molars as he answered her, " I will ! "

Young GILBERT rose from table with a stern determined look,
And, frowning, took an inexpensive hatchet from its hook;
And ANNIE watched his movements with an interested air—
For the morrow—for the morrow he was going to prepare!

He chipped it with a hammer and he chopped it with a bill,
He poured sulphuric acid on the edge of it, until
This terrible Avenger of the Majesty of Law
Was far less like a hatchet than a dissipated saw.



And ANNIE said, "O GILBERT, dear, I do not understand
Why ever you are injuring that hatchet in your hand?"
He said, "It is intended for to lacerate and flay
The neck of that unmitigated villain PETER GRAY!"

"Now GILBERT," ANNIE answered, "wicked headsman, just beware—
I won't have PETER tortured with that horrible affair;
If you appear with that, you may depend you'll rue the day."
But GILBERT said, "Oh, shall I?" which was just his nasty way.

He saw a look of anger from her eyes distinctly dart,
For ANNIE was a woman, and had pity in her heart!
She wished him a good evening—he answered with a glare;
She only said, "Remember, for your ANNIE will be there!"

The morrow GILBERT boldly on the scaffold took his stand,
 With a vizor on his face and with a hatchet in his hand,
 And all the people noticed that the Engine of the Law
 Was far less like a hatchet than a dissipated saw.

The felon very coolly loosed his collar and his stock,
 And placed his wicked head upon the handy little block.
 The hatchet was uplifted for to settle PETER GRAY,
 When GILBERT plainly heard a woman's voice exclaiming, "Stay!"



'Twas ANNIE, gentle ANNIE, as you'll easily believe.
 "O GILBERT, you must spare him, for I bring him a reprieve,
 It came from our Home Secretary many weeks ago,
 And passed through that post-office which I used to keep at Bow.

"I loved you, loved you madly, and you know it, GILBERT CLAY,
 And as I'd quite surrendered all idea of PETER GRAY,
 I quietly suppressed it, as you'll clearly understand,
 For I thought it might be awkward if he came and claimed my
 hand.

"In anger at my secret (which I could not tell before)
To lacerate poor PETER GRAY vindictively you swore ;
I told you if you used that blunted axe you'd rue the day,
And so you will, young GILBERT, for I'll marry PETER GRAY !"

[*And so she did.*]





AN UNFORTUNATE LIKENESS.

I 'VE painted SHAKESPEARE all my life—
“An infant” (even then at “play”!)
“A boy,” with stage-ambition rife,
Then “Married to ANN HATHAWAY.”

“The bard’s first ticket night” (or “ben.”),
His “First appearance on the stage,”
His “Call before the curtain”—then
“Rejoicings when he came of age.”

The bard play-writing in his room,
The bard a humble lawyer’s clerk,

The bard a lawyer¹—parson²—groom³—
The bard deer-stealing, after dark.

The bard a tradesman⁴—and a Jew⁵—
The bard a botanist⁶—a beak⁷—
The bard a skilled musician⁸ too—
A sheriff⁹ and a surgeon¹⁰ eke !

Yet critics say (a friendly stock)
That, though it's evident I try,
Yet even *I* can barely mock
The glimmer of his wondrous eye !

One morning as a work I framed,
There passed a person, walking hard :
"My gracious goodness," I exclaimed,
"How very like my dear old bard !

¹ "Go with me to a Notary—seal me there
Your single bond."—*Merchant of Venice*, Act I., sc. 3.

² "And there shall she, at Friar Lawrence' cell,
Be shrived and married."—*Romeo and Juliet*, Act II., sc. 4.

³ "And give their fasting horses provender."—*Henry the Fifth*, Act IV., sc. 2.

⁴ "Let us, like merchants, show our foulest wares."—*Troilus and Cressida*, Act I., sc. 3.

⁵ "Then must the Jew be merciful."—*Merchant of Venice*, Act IV., sc. 1.

⁶ "The spring, the summer,
The chiding autumn, angry winter, change
Their wonted liveries."—*Midsummer Night's Dream*, Act IV., sc. 1.

⁷ "In the county of Glo'ster, justice of the peace and *coram*."
Merry Wives of Windsor, Act I., sc. 1.

⁸ "What lusty trumpet thus doth summon us?"—*King John*, Act V., sc. 2.

⁹ "And I'll provide his executioner."—*Henry the Sixth* (Second Part), Act III., sc. 1.

¹⁰ "The lioness had torn some flesh away,
Which all this while had bled."—*As You Like It*, Act IV., sc. 3.

“Oh, what a model he would make!”

I rushed outside—impulsive me!—

“Forgive the liberty I take,

But you’re so very”—“Stop!” said he.

“You needn’t waste your breath or time,—

I know what you are going to say,—

That you’re an artist, and that I’m

Remarkably like SHAKESPEARE. Eh?

“You wish that I would sit to you?”

I clasped him madly round the waist,

And breathlessly replied, “I do!”

“All right,” said he, “but please make haste.”

I led him by his hallowed sleeve,

And worked away at him apace,

I painted him till dewy eve,—

There never was a nobler face!

“Oh, sir,” I said, “a fortune grand

Is yours, by dint of merest chance,—

To sport *his* brow at second-hand,

To wear *his* cast-off countenance!

“To rub *his* eyes whene’er they ache—

To wear *his* baldness ere you’re old—

To clean *his* teeth when you awake—

To blow *his* nose when you’ve a cold!”

His eyeballs glistened in his eyes—
I sat and watched and smoked my pipe;
"Bravo!" I said, "I recognize
The phrensy of your prototype!"

His scanty hair he wildly tore:
"That's right," said I, "it shows your breed."
He danced—he stamped—he wildly swore—
"Bless me, that's very fine indeed!"

"Sir," said the grand Shakesperian boy
(Continuing to blaze away),
"You think my face a source of joy;
That shows you know not what you say."

"Forgive these yells and cellar-flaps:
I'm always thrown in some such state
When on his face well-meaning chaps
This wretched man congratulate.

"For, oh! this face—this pointed chin—
This nose—this brow—these eyeballs too,
Have always been the origin
Of all the woes I ever knew!

"If to the play my way I find,
To see a grand Shakesperian piece,
I have no rest, no ease of mind
Until the author's puppets cease.

“Men nudge each other—thus—and say,
 ‘This certainly is SHAKESPEARE’S son,’
 And merry wags (of course in play)
 Cry ‘Author!’ when the piece is done.



“In church the people stare at me,
 Their soul the sermon never binds;
 I catch them looking round to see,
 And thoughts of SHAKESPEARE fill their minds.

“And sculptors, fraught with cunning wile,
 Who find it difficult to crown
 A bust with BROWN’S insipid smile,
 Or TOMKINS’S unmannered frown,

“Yet boldly make my face their own,
 When (oh, presumption!) they require
 To animate a paving-stone
 With SHAKESPEARE’S intellectual fire.

"At parties where young ladies gaze,
 And I attempt to speak my joy,
 'Hush, pray,' some lovely creature says,
 'The fond illusion don't destroy!'



"Whene'er I speak my soul is wrung
 With these or some such whisperings:
 'Tis pity that a SHAKESPEARE'S tongue
 Should say such un-Shakesperian things!"

"I should not thus be criticised
 Had I a face of common wont:
 Don't envy me—now, be advised!"
 And, now I think of it, I don't!



THE KING OF CANOODLE-DUM.

THE story of FREDERICK GOWLER,
A mariner of the sea,
Who quitted his ship, the *Howler*,
A-sailing in Caribbee.
For many a day he wandered,
Till he met in a state of rum
CALAMITY POP VON PEPPERMINT DROP,
The King of Canoodle-Dum.

That monarch addressed him gaily,
“Hum! Golly de do to-day?
Hum! Lily-white Buckra Sailee”—
(You notice his playful way?)—

"What dickens you doin' here, sar?
Why debbil you want to come?
Hum! Picaninnee, dere isn't no sea
In City Canoodle-Dum!"

And GOWLER he answered sadly,
"Oh, mine is a doleful tale!
They've treated me werry badly
In Lunnon, from where I hail.
I'm one of the Family Royal—
No common Jack Tar you see;
I'm WILLIAM THE FOURTH, far up in the North,
A King in my own countree!"

Bang-bang! How the tom-toms thundered!
Bang-bang! How they thumped the gongs!
Bang-bang! How the people wondered!
Bang-bang! At it hammer and tongs!
Alliance with Kings of Europe
Is an honour Canoodlers seek,
Her monarchs don't stop with PEPPERMINT DROP
Every day in the week!

FRED told them that he was undone,
For his people all went insane,
And fired the Tower of London,
And Grinnidge's Naval Fane.
And some of them racked St. James's,
And vented their rage upon
The Church of St. Paul, the Fishmongers' Hall,
And the Angel at Islington.

CALAMITY POP implored him
In his capital to remain
Till those people of his restored him
To power and rank again.
CALAMITY POP he made him
A Prince of Canoodle-Dum,
With a couple of caves, some beautiful slaves,
And the run of the royal rum.

POP gave him his only daughter,
HUM PICKETY WIMPLE TIP:
FRED vowed that if over the water
He went, in an English ship,
He'd make her his Queen,—though truly
It is an unusual thing
For a Caribbee brat who's as black as your hat
To be wife of an English King.

And all the Canoodle-Dummers
They copied his rolling walk,
His method of draining rummers,
His emblematical talk.
For his dress and his graceful breeding,
His delicate taste in rum,
And his nautical way, were the talk of the day
In the Court of Canoodle-Dum.

CALAMITY POP most wisely
Determined in everything
To model his Court precisely
On that of the English King;

And ordered that every lady
And every lady's lord
Should masticate jacky (a kind of tobaccy)
And scatter its juice abroad.

They signified wonder roundly
At any astounding yarn,
By darning their dear eyes roundly
(’T was all they had to darn).
They “hoisted their slacks,” adjusting
Garments of plantain-leaves
With nautical twitches (as if they wore breeches,
Instead of a dress like EVE’s!)



They shivered their timbers proudly,
At a phantom forelock dragged,
And called for a hornpipe loudly
Whenever amusement flagged.

“Hum! Golly! him POP resemble,
Him Britisher sov'reign, hum!
CALAMITY POP VON PEPPERMINT DROP,
De King of Canoodle-Dum!”

The mariner's lively “Hollo!”
Enlivened Canoodle's plain
(For blessings unnumbered follow
In Civilization's train).
But Fortune, who loves a bathos,
A terrible ending planned,
For ADMIRAL D. CHICKABIDDY, C.B.,
Placed foot on Canoodle land!



That rebel, he seized KING GOWLER,
He threatened his royal brains,
And put him aboard the *Howler*,
And fastened him down with chains.

The *Howler* she weighed her anchor,
With FREDERICK nicely nailed,
And off to the North with WILLIAM THE FOURTH
These horrible pirates sailed.

CALAMITY said (with folly)
"Hum! nebber want him again—
Him civilize all of us, golly!
CALAMITY suck him brain!"
The people, however, were pained when
They saw him aboard his ship,
But none of them wept for their FREDDY, except
HUM PICKETY WIMPLE TIP.



THE MARTINET.

SOME time ago, in simple verse
I sang the story true
Of CAPTAIN REECE, the *Mantelpiece*,
And all her happy crew.

I showed how any captain may
Attach his men to him,
If he but heeds their smallest needs,
And studies every whim.

Now mark how, by Draconic rule
And *hauteur* ill-advised,
The noblest crew upon the Blue
May be demoralized.

When his ungrateful country placed
Kind REECE upon half-pay,
Without much claim SIR BERKELY came,
And took command one day.

SIR BERKELY was a martinet—
A stern unyielding soul—
Who ruled his ship by dint of whip
And horrible black-hole.

A sailor who was overcome
From having freely dined,
And chanced to reel when at the wheel,
He instantly confined !

And tars who, when an action raged,
Appeared alarmed or scared,
And those below who wished to go,
He very seldom spared.

E'en he who smote his officer
For punishment was booked,
And mutinies upon the seas
He rarely overlooked.

In short, the happy *Mantelpiece*
Where all had gone so well,
Beneath that fool SIR BERKELY'S rule
Became a floating hell.

When first SIR BERKELY came aboard
He read a speech to all,
And told them how he'd made a vow
To act on duty's call.

Then WILLIAM LEE, he up and said
(The Captain's coxswain he),
"We've heard the speech your honour's made,
And werry pleased we be.

"We won't pretend, my lad, as how
We're glad to lose our REECE;
Urbane, polite, he suited quite
The saucy *Mantelpiece*.

"But if your honour gives your mind
To study all our ways,
With dance and song we'll jog along
As in those happy days.

"I like your honour's looks, and feel
You're worthy of your sword.
Your hand, my lad—I'm doosid glad
To welcome you aboard!"

SIR BERKELY looked amazed, as though
He didn't understand.
"Don't shake your head," good WILLIAM said,
"It is an honest hand.

"It's grasped a better hand than yours—
Come, gov'nor, I insist!"
The Captain stared—the coxswain glared—
The hand became a fist!



"Down, upstart!" said the hardy salt;
But BERKELY dodged his aim,
And made him go in chains below:
The seamen murmured "Shame!"

He stopped all songs at 12 p.m.,
Stopped hornpipes when at sea,
And swore his cot (or bunk) should not
Be used by aught than he.

He never joined their daily mess,
Nor asked them to his own,
But chaffed in gay and social way
The officers alone.

His First Lieutenant, PETER, was
As useless as could be,
A helpless stick, and always sick
When there was any sea.

This First Lieutenant proved to be
His foster-sister MAY,
Who went to sea for love of he
In masculine array.

And when he learnt the curious fact,
Did he emotion show,
Or dry her tears, or end her fears
By marrying her? No!

Or did he even try to soothe
This maiden in her teens?
Oh, no!—instead he made her wed
The Sergeant of Marines!

Of course such Spartan discipline
Would make an angel fret;
They drew a lot, and WILLIAM shot
This fearful martinet.

The Admiralty saw how ill
They'd treated CAPTAIN REECE;
He was restored once more aboard
The saucy *Mantelpiece*.





THE SAILOR BOY TO HIS LASS.

I GO away this blessed day,
To sail across the sea, MATILDA!
My vessel starts for various parts
At twenty after three, MATILDA.
I hardly know where we may go,
Or if it's near or far, MATILDA,
For CAPTAIN HYDE does not confide
In any 'fore-mast tar, MATILDA!

Beneath my ban that mystic man
Shall suffer, *colûte qui colûte*, MATILDA!
What right has he to keep from me
The Admiralty route, MATILDA?

Because, forsooth ! I am a youth
 Of common sailors' lot, MATILDA !
 Am I a man on human plan
 Designed, or am I not, MATILDA ?



But there, my lass, we'll let that pass !
 With anxious love I burn, MATILDA.
 I want to know if we shall go
 To church when I return, MATILDA ?
 Your eyes are red, you bow your head ;
 It's pretty clear you thirst, MATILDA,
 To name the day—What's that you say ?
 —“You'll see me further first,” MATILDA ?

I can't mistake the signs you make,
 Although you barely speak, MATILDA ;
 Though pure and young, you thrust your tongue
 Right in your pretty cheek, MATILDA !

My dear, I fear I hear you sneer—
I do—I'm sure I do, MATILDA!
With simple grace you make a face,
Ejaculating, "Ugh!" MATILDA.

Oh, pause to think before you drink
The dregs of Lethe's cup, MATILDA!
Remember, do, what I've gone through,
Before you give me up, MATILDA!
Recall again the mental pain
Of what I've had to do, MATILDA!
And be assured that I've endured
It, all along of you, MATILDA!

Do you forget, my blithesome pet,
How once with jealous rage, MATILDA,
I watched you walk and gaily talk
With some one thrice your age, MATILDA?
You squatted free upon his knee,
A sight that made me sad, MATILDA!
You pinched his cheek with friendly tweak,
Which almost drove me mad, MATILDA!

I knew him not, but hoped to spot
Some man you thought to wed, MATILDA!
I took a gun, my darling one,
And shot him through the head, MATILDA!
I'm made of stuff that's rough and gruff
Enough, I own; but, ah, MATILDA!
It *did* annoy your sailor boy
To find it was your pa, MATILDA!

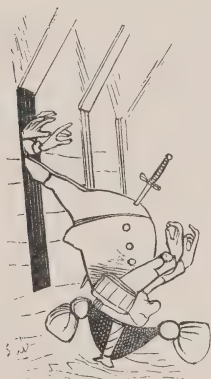
I've passed a life of toil and strife,
And disappointments deep, MATILDA;
I've lain awake with dental ache
Until I fell asleep, MATILDA!
At times again I've missed a train,
Or p'rhaps run short of tin, MATILDA,
And worn a boot on corns that shoot,
Or, shaving, cut my chin, MATILDA,

But, oh! no trains—no dental pains—
Believe me when I say, MATILDA,
No corns that shoot—no pinching boot
Upon a summer day, MATILDA—
It's my belief, could cause such grief
As that I've suffered for, MATILDA,
My having shot in vital spot
Your old progenitor, MATILDA.

Bethink you how I've kept the vow
I made one winter day, MATILDA—
That, come what could, I never would
Remain too long away, MATILDA.
And, oh! the crimes with which, at times,
I've charged my gentle mind, MATILDA,
To keep the vow I made—and now
You treat me so unkind, MATILDA!

For when at sea, off Caribbee,
I felt my passion burn, MATILDA;
By passion egged, I went and begged
The captain to return, MATILDA.

And when, my pet, I couldn't get
That captain to agree, MATILDA,
Right through a sort of open port
I pitched him in the sea, MATILDA!

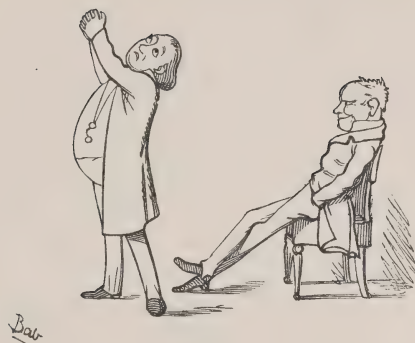


Remember, too, how all the crew,
With indignation blind, MATILDA,
Distinctly swore they ne'er before
Had thought me so unkind, MATILDA.
And how they'd shun me one by one—
An unforgiving group, MATILDA—
I stopped their howls and sulky scowls
By pizening their soup, MATILDA!

So pause to think, before you drink
The dregs of Lethe's cup, MATILDA;
Remember, do, what I've gone through,
Before you give me up, MATILDA.

Recall again the mental pain
Of what I've had to do, MATILDA,
And be assured that I've endured
It, all along of you, MATILDA!





THE REVEREND SIMON MAGUS.

A RICH advowson, highly prized,
For private sale was advertised;
And many a parson made a bid;
The REVEREND SIMON MAGUS did.

He sought the agent's: "Agent, I
Have come prepared at once to buy
(If your demand is not too big)
The Cure of Otium-cum-Digge."

"Ah!" said the agent, "*there's* a berth—
The snuggest vicarage on earth;
No sort of duty (so I hear),
And fifteen hundred pounds a year!

"If on the price we should agree,
The living soon will vacant be ;
The good incumbent's ninety-five,
And cannot very long survive.

"See—here's his photograph—you see,
He's in his dotage." "Ah, dear me !
Poor soul !" said SIMON. "His decease
Would be a merciful release !"



The agent laughed—the agent blinked—
The agent blew his nose and winked—
And poked the parson's ribs in play—
It was that agent's vulgar way.

The REVEREND SIMON frowned : "I grieve
This light demeanour to perceive ;
It's scarcely *comme il faut*, I think :
Now—pray oblige me—do not wink.

"Don't dig my waistcoat into holes—
Your mission is to sell the souls
Of human sheep and human kids
To that divine who highest bids.

“Do well in this, and on your head
Unnumbered honours will be shed.”
The agent said, “Well, truth to tell,
I *have* been doing very well.”

“You should,” said SIMON, “at your age;
But now about the parsonage.
How many rooms does it contain?
Show me the photograph again.

“A poor apostle’s humble house
Must not be too luxurious;
No stately halls with oaken floor—
It should be decent and no more.

“No billiard-rooms—no stately trees—
No croquet-grounds or pineries.”

“Ah!” sighed the agent, “very true:
This property won’t do for you.

“All these about the house you’ll find.”—

“Well,” said the parson, “never mind;
I’ll manage to submit to these
Luxurious superfluities.

“A clergyman who does not shirk
The various calls of Christian work,
Will have no leisure to employ
These ‘common forms’ of worldly joy.

“To preach three times on Sabbath days—
To wean the lost from wicked ways—
The sick to soothe—the sane to wed—
The poor to feed with meat and bread;

"These are the various wholesome ways
In which I'll spend my nights and days:
My zeal will have no time to cool
At croquet, archery, or pool."

The agent said, "From what I hear,
This living will not suit, I fear—
There are no poor, no sick at all;
For services there is no call."

The reverend gent looked grave. "Dear me!
Then there is *no* 'society'?—
I mean, of course, no sinners there
Whose souls will be my special care?"



The cunning agent shook his head,
"No, none—except"—(the agent said)—
"The DUKE OF A., the EARL OF B.,
The MARQUIS C., and VISCOUNT D."

"But you will not be quite alone,
For though they've chaplains of their own,
Of course this noble well-bred clan
Receive the parish clergyman."

"Oh, silence, sir!" said SIMON M.,
"Dukes—Earls! What should I care for them?
These worldly ranks I scorn and flout!"
"Of course," the agent said, "no doubt!"

"Yet I might show these men of birth
The hollowness of rank on earth."
The agent answered, "Very true—
But I should not, if I were you."

"Who sells this rich advowson, pray?"
The agent winked—it was his way—
"His name is HART; 'twixt me and you,
He is, I'm grieved to say, a Jew!"

"A Jew?" said SIMON, "happy find!
I purchase this advowson, mind.
My life shall be devoted to
Converting that unhappy Jew!"





MY DREAM.

THE other night, from cares exempt,
I slept—and what d' you think I dreamt?
I dreamt that somehow I had come
To dwell in Topsy-Turveydom—

Where vice is virtue—virtue, vice :
Where nice is nasty—nasty, nice :
Where right is wrong and wrong is right—
Where white is black and black is white.

Where babies, much to their surprise,
Are born astonishingly wise ;
With every Science on their lips,
And Art at all their finger-tips.

For, as their nurses dandle them,
They crow binomial theorem,
With views (it seems absurd to us)
On differential calculus.

But though a babe, as I have said,
Is born with learning in his head,
He must forget it, if he can,
Before he calls himself a man.

For that which we call folly here,
Is wisdom in that favoured sphere;
The wisdom we so highly prize
Is blatant folly in their eyes.

A boy, if he would push his way,
Must learn some nonsense every day;
And cut, to carry out this view,
His wisdom teeth and wisdom too.

Historians burn their midnight oils,
Intent on giant-killers' toils;
And sages close their aged eyes
To other sages' lullabies.

Our magistrates, in duty bound,
Commit all robbers who are found;
But there the beaks (so people said)
Commit all robberies instead.

Our Judges, pure and wise in tone,
Know crime from theory alone,
And glean the motives of a thief
From books and popular belief.

But there, a Judge who wants to prime
His mind with true ideas of crime,
Derives them from the common sense
Of practical experience.



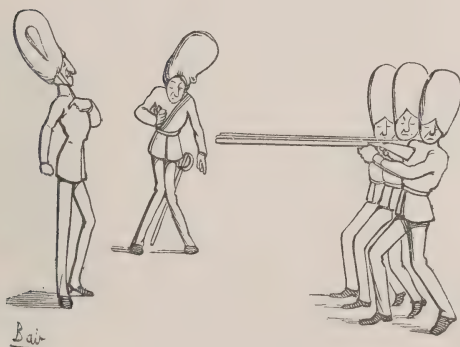
Policemen march all folks away
Who practise virtue every day—
Of course, I mean to say, you know,
What we call virtue here below.

For only scoundrels dare to do
What we consider just and true,
And only good men do, in fact,
What we should think a dirty act.

But strangest of these social twirls,
The girls are boys—the boys are girls!
The men are women, too—but then
Per contra, women all are men.

To one who to tradition clings
 This seems an awkward state of things,
 But if to think it out you try,
 It doesn't really signify.

With them, as surely as can be,
 A sailor should be sick at sea,
 And not a passenger may sail
 Who cannot smoke right through a gale.



A soldier (save by rarest luck)
 Is always shot for showing pluck
 (That is, if others can be found
 With pluck enough to fire a round).

"How strange!" I said to one I saw;
 "You quite upset our every law.
 However can you get along
 So systematically wrong?"

"Dear me!" my mad informant said,
"Have you no eyes within your head?
You sneer when you your hat should doff:
Why, we begin where you leave off!"

"Your wisest men are very far
Less learned than our babies are!"
I mused awhile—and then, oh me!
I framed this brilliant repartee:

"Although your babes are wiser far
Than our most valued sages are,
Your sages, with their toys and cots,
Are duller than our idiots!"

But this remark, I grieve to state,
Came just a little bit too late;
For as I framed it in my head,
I woke and found myself in bed.

Still I could wish that, 'stead of here,
My lot were in that favoured sphere!—
Where greatest fools bear off the bell
I ought to do extremely well.





THE BISHOP OF RUM-TI-FOO, AGAIN.

I OFTEN wonder whether you
 Think sometimes of that Bishop, who
 From black but balmy Rum-ti-Foo
 Last summer twelvemonth came.
 Unto your mind I p'raps may bring
 Remembrance of the man I sing
 To-day, by simply mentioning
 That PETER was his name.

Remember how that holy man
 Came with the great Colonial clan
 To Synod, called Pan-Anglican;
 And kindly recollect

How, having crossed the ocean wide,
To please his flock all means he tried
Consistent with a proper pride
And manly self-respect.

He only, of the reverend pack
Who minister to Christians black,
Brought any useful knowledge back
To his Colonial fold.
In consequence a place I claim
For "PETER" on the scroll of Fame
(For PETER was that Bishop's name,
As I've already told).

He carried Art, he often said,
To places where that timid maid
(Save by Colonial Bishops' aid)
Could never hope to roam.
The Payne-cum-Lauri feat he taught
As he had learnt it; for he thought
The choicest fruits of Progress ought
To bless the Negro's home.

And he had other work to do,
For, while he tossed upon the Blue,
The islanders of Rum-ti-Foo
Forgot their kindly friend.
Their decent clothes they learnt to tear—
They learnt to say, "I do not care,"
Though they, of course, were well aware
How folks, who say so, end.



Some sailors, whom he did not know,
 Had landed there not long ago,
 And taught them "Bother!" also, "Blow!"
 (Of wickedness the germs).
 No need to use a casuist's pen
 To prove that they were merchantmen;
 No sailor of the Royal N.
 Would use such awful terms.

And so, when BISHOP PETER came
 (That was the kindly Bishop's name),
 He heard these dreadful oaths with shame,
 And chid their want of dress.
 (Except a shell—a bangle rare—
 A feather here—a feather there—
 The South Pacific negroes wear
 Their native nothingness.)

He taught them that a Bishop loathes
To listen to disgraceful oaths,
He gave them all his left-off clothes—

They bent them to his will.
The Bishop's gift spreads quickly round;
In PETER'S left-off clothes they bound
(His three-and-twenty suits they found
In fair condition still).

The Bishop's eyes with water fill,
Quite overjoyed to find them still
Obedient to his sovereign will,
And said, "Good Rum-ti-Foo!
Half-way I'll meet you, I declare:
I'll dress myself in cowries rare,
And fasten feathers in my hair,
And dance the 'Cutch-chi-boo!' " *

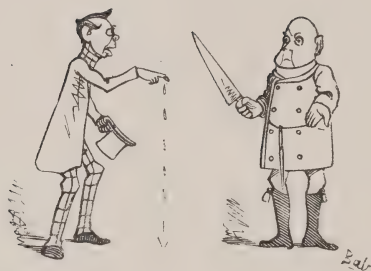
And to conciliate his see
He married PICCADILLILEE,
The youngest of his twenty-three,
Tall—neither fat nor thin.
(And though the dress he made her don
Looks awkwardly a girl upon,
It was a great improvement on
The one he found her in.)

The Bishop in his gay canoe
(His wife, of course, went with him too)
To some adjacent island flew,
To spend his honeymoon.

* Described by MUNGO PARK.

Some day in sunny Rum-ti-Foo
A little PETER 'll be on view;
And that (if people tell me true)
Is like to happen soon.





THE HAUGHTY ACTOR.

AN actor—GIBBS, of Drury Lane—
Of very decent station,
Once happened in a part to gain
Excessive approbation :
It sometimes turns a fellow's brain
And makes him singularly vain
When he believes that he receives
Tremendous approbation.

His great success half drove him mad,
But no one seemed to mind him ;
Well, in another piece he had
Another part assigned him.

This part was smaller, by a bit,
Than that in which he made a hit.
So, much ill-used, he straight refused
To play the part assigned him.

* * * * *

*That night that actor slept, and I'll attempt
To tell you of the vivid dream he dreamt.*

THE DREAM.

In fighting with a robber band
(A thing he loved sincerely)
A sword struck GIBBS upon the hand
And wounded it severely.
At first he didn't heed it much,
He thought it was a simple touch,
But soon he found the weapon's bound
Had wounded him severely.

To Surgeon COBB he made a trip,
Who'd just effected featly
An amputation at the hip
Particularly neatly.
A rising man was Surgeon COBB,
But this extremely ticklish job
He had achieved (as he believed)
Particularly neatly.

The actor rang the surgeon's bell.
"Observe my wounded finger,
Be good enough to strap it well,
And prithee do not linger.

That I, dear sir, may fill again
 The Theatre Royal Drury Lane :
 This very night I have to fight—
 So prithee do not linger."

"I don't strap fingers up for doles,"
 Replied the haughty surgeon ;
 "To use your cant, I don't play *rôles*
 Utility that verge on.
 'First amputation'—nothing less—
 That is my line of business :
 We surgeon nobs despise all jobs
 Utility that verge on."

"When in your hip there lurks disease"
 (So dreamt this lively dreamer),
 "Or devastating *caries*,
 In *humerus* or *femur*,
 If you can pay a handsome fee,
 Oh, then you may remember me—
 With joy elate I'll amputate
 Your *humerus* or *femur*."

The disconcerted actor ceased
 The haughty leech to pester,
 But when the wound in size increased,
 And then began to fester,
 He sought a learned Counsel's lair,
 And told that Counsel, then and there,
 How COBB's neglect of his defect
 Had made his finger fester.

“ Oh, bring my action, if you please,
 The case I pray you urge on,
 And win me thumping damages
 From COBB, that haughty surgeon.
 He culpably neglected me
 Although I proffered him his fee,
 So pray come down, in wig and gown,
 On COBB, that haughty surgeon ! ”

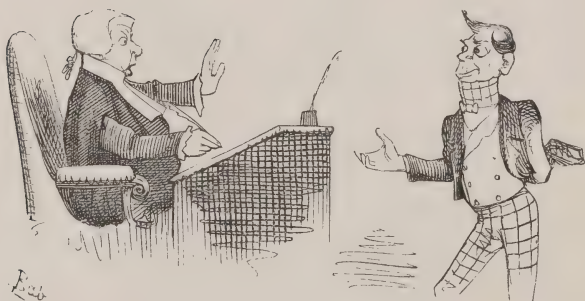


That Counsel learned in the laws,
 With passion almost trembled.
 He just had gained a mighty cause
 Before the Peers assembled !
 Said he, “ How dare you have the face
 To come with Common Jury case
 To one who wings rhetoric flings
 Before the Peers assembled ? ”

Dispirited became our friend—
 Depressed his moral pecker—
 But stay ! a thought ! I ’ll gain my end
 And save my poor exchequer.

I won't be placed upon the shelf,
 I'll take it into Court myself,
 And legal lore display before
 The Court of the Exchequer."

He found a Baron—one of those
 Who with our laws supply us—
 In wig and silken gown and hose,
 As if at *Nisi Prius*.
 But he'd just given, off the reel,
 A famous judgment on Appeal:
 It scarce became his heightened fame
 To sit at *Nisi Prius*.



Our friend began, with easy wit,
 That half concealed his terror:
 "Pooh!" said the Judge, "I only sit
 In *Banco* or in *Error*.
 Can you suppose, my man, that I'd
 O'er *Nisi Prius* Courts preside,
 Or condescend my time to spend
 On anything but *Error*?"

"Too bad," said GIBBS, "my case to shirk!
You must be bad innately,
To save your skill for mighty work
Because it's valued greatly!"
But here he woke, with sudden start.

* * * * *

He wrote to say he'd play the part.
I've but to tell he played it well—
The author's words—his native wit
Combined, achieved a perfect "hit"—
The papers praised him greatly.





THE TWO MAJORS.

AN excellent soldier who's worthy the name
Loves officers dashing and strict :
When good, he's content with escaping all blame,
When naughty, he likes to be licked.

He likes for a fault to be bullied and stormed,
Or imprisoned for several days,
And hates, for a duty correctly performed,
To be slavered with sickening praise.

No officer sickened with praises his *corps*
So little as MAJOR LA GUERRE—
No officers swore at his warriors more
Than MAJOR MAKREDI PREPERE.

Their soldiers adored them, and every grade
Delighted to hear their abuse;
Though whenever these officers came on parade
They shivered and shook in their shoes.

For, oh! if LA GUERRE could all praises withhold,
Why, so could MAKREDI PREPERE,
And, oh! if MAKREDI could bluster and scold,
Why, so could the mighty LA GUERRE.

“No doubt we deserve it—no mercy we crave—
Go on—you’re conferring a boon;
We would rather be slanged by a warrior brave,
Than praised by a wretched poltroon!”

MAKREDI would say that in battle’s fierce rage
True happiness only was met:
Poor MAJOR MAKREDI, though fifty his age,
Had never known happiness yet!

LA GUERRE would declare, “With the blood of a foe
No tippie is worthy to clink.”
Poor fellow! he hadn’t, though sixty or so,
Yet tasted his favourite drink!

They agreed at their mess—they agreed in the glass—
They agreed in the choice of their “set,”
And they also agreed in adoring, alas!
The Vivandière, pretty FILLETTE.

Agreement, you see, may be carried too far,
And after agreeing all round
For years—in this soldierly “maid of the bar,”
A bone of contention they found!

It may seem improper to call such a pet—
 By a metaphor, even—a bone;
 But though they agreed in adoring her, yet
 Each wanted to make her his own.

"On the day that you marry her," muttered PREPERE
 (With a pistol he quietly played),
 "I'll scatter the brains in your noddle, I swear,
 All over the stony parade!"



"I cannot do *that* to you," answered LA GUERRE,
 "Whatever events may befall;
 But this *I can* do—if you wed her, *mon cher*!
 I'll eat you, moustachios and all!"

The rivals, although they would never engage,
 Yet quarrelled whenever they met;
 They met in a fury and left in a rage,
 But neither took pretty FILLETTE.

"I am not afraid," thought MAKREDI PREPERE :

"For country I'm ready to fall ;
But nobody wants, for a mere Vivandière,
To be eaten, moustachios and all !

"Besides, though LA GUERRE has his faults, I'll allow

He's one of the bravest of men :
My goodness ! if I disagree with him now,
I might disagree with him then."

"No coward am I," said LA GUERRE, "as you guess—

I sneer at an enemy's blade ;
But I don't want PREPERE to get into a mess
For splashing the stony parade !"



One day on parade to PREPERE and LA GUERRE
Came CORPORAL JACOT DEBETTE,
And trembling all over, he prayed of them there
To give him the pretty FILLETTE.

"You see, I am willing to marry my bride
Until you've arranged this affair;
I will blow out my brains when your honours decide
Which marries the sweet Vivandière!"

"Well, take her," said both of them in a duet
(A favourite form of reply),

"But when I am ready to marry FILLETTE
Remember you've promised to die!"

He married her then: from the flowery plains
Of existence the roses they cull:
He lived and he died with his wife; and his brains
Are reposing in peace in his skull.





EMILY, JOHN, JAMES, AND I.

A DERBY LEGEND.

EMILY JANE was a nursery maid,
JAMES was a bold Life Guard,
JOHN was a constable, poorly paid
(And I am a doggel bard).

A very good girl was EMILY JANE,
JIMMY was good and true,
JOHN was a very good man in the main
(And I am a good man too).

Rivals for EMMIE were JOHNNY and JAMES,
Though EMILY liked them both;
She couldn't tell which had the strongest claims
(And I couldn't take my oath).

But sooner or later you're certain to find
Your sentiments can't lie hid—
JANE thought it was time that she made up her mind
(And I think it was time she did).

Said JANE, with a smirk, and a blush on her face,
"I'll promise to wed the boy
Who takes me to-morrow to Epsom Race!"
(Which *I* would have done, with joy).

From JOHNNY escaped an expression of pain,
But JIMMY said, "Done with you!
I'll take you with pleasure, my EMILY JANE!"
(And I would have said so too).

JOHN lay on the ground, and he roared like mad
(For JOHNNY was sore perplexed),
And he kicked very hard at a very small lad
(Which *I* often do, when vexed).

For JOHN was on duty next day with the Force,
To punish all Epsom crimes;
Young people *will* cross when they're clearing the course
(I do it myself, sometimes).

* * * * *

The Derby Day sun glittered gaily on cads,
On maidens with gamboge hair,
On sharpers and pickpockets, swindlers and pads
(For I, with my harp, was there).

And JIMMY went down with his JANE that day,
And JOHN by the collar or nape
Seized everybody who came in his way
(And *I* had a narrow escape).

He noticed his EMILY JANE with JIM,
And envied the well-made elf;
And people remarked that he muttered "Oh, dim!"
(*I* often say "dim!" myself).

JOHN dogged them all day, without asking their leaves;
For his sergeant he told, aside,
That JIMMY and JANE were notorious thieves
(And *I* think he was justified).

But JAMES wouldn't dream of abstracting a fork,
And JENNY would blush with shame
At stealing so much as a bottle or cork
(A bottle *I* think fair game).

But, ah! there's another more serious crime!
They wickedly strayed upon
The course, at a critical moment of time
(*I* pointed them out to JOHN).

The constable fell on the pair in a crack—
And then, with a demon smile,
Let JENNY cross over, but sent JIMMY back
(*I* played on my harp the while).



Stern JOHNNY their agony loud derides
 With a very triumphant sneer—
 They weep and they wail from the opposite sides
 (And *I* shed a silent tear).

And JENNY is crying away like mad,
 And JIMMY is swearing hard;
 And JOHNNY is looking uncommonly glad
 (And *I* am a doggrel bard).

But JIMMY he ventured on crossing again
 The scenes of our Isthmian Games—
JOHN caught him, and collared him, giving him pain
 (I felt very much for JAMES).

JOHN led him away with a victor's hand,
 And JIMMY was shortly seen
 In the station-house under the grand Grand Stand
 (As many a time *I've* been).

And JIMMY, bad boy, was imprisoned for life,
Though EMILY pleaded hard;
And JOHNNY had EMILY JANE to wife
(And I am a doggrell bard).





THE PERILS OF INVISIBILITY.

OLD PETER led a wretched life—
Old PETER had a furious wife;
Old PETER too was truly stout,
He measured several yards about.

The little fairy PICKLEKIN
One summer afternoon looked in,
And said, "Old PETER, how de do?
Can I do anything for you?"

"I have three gifts—the first will give
Unbounded riches while you live;
The second health where'er you be;
The third, invisibility."

“O little fairy PICKLEKIN,”
Old PETER answered with a grin,
“To hesitate would be absurd,—
Undoubtedly I choose the third.”

“’T is yours,” the fairy said; “be quite
Invisible to mortal sight
Whene’er you please. Remember me
Most kindly, pray, to MRS. P.”

Old MRS. PETER overheard
Wee PICKLEKIN’S concluding word,
And, jealous of her girlhood’s choice,
Said, “That was some young woman’s voice!”

Old PETER let her scold and swear—
Old PETER, bless him, didn’t care.
“My dear, your rage is wasted quite—
Observe, I disappear from sight!”

A well-bred fairy (so I’ve heard)
Is always faithful to her word:
Old PETER vanished like a shot,
But then—*his suit of clothes did not!*

For when conferred the fairy slim
Invisibility on *him*,
She popped away on fairy wings,
Without referring to his “things.”

So there remained a coat of blue,
A vest and double eyeglass too,
His tail, his shoes, his socks as well,
His pair of—no, I must not tell.

Old MRS. PETER soon began
To see the failure of his plan,
And then resolved (I quote the Bard)
To "hoist him with his own petard."

Old PETER woke next day and dressed,
Put on his coat and shoes and vest,
His shirt and stock; *but could not find*
His only pair of—never mind!

Old PETER was a decent man,
And though he twigg'd his lady's plan,
Yet, hearing her approaching, he
Resumed invisibility.

"Dear MRS. P., my only joy,"
Exclaimed the horrified old boy,
"Now give them up, I beg of you—
You know what I'm referring to!"

But no; the cross old lady swore
She'd keep his—what I said before—
To make him publicly absurd;
And MRS. PETER kept her word.

The poor old fellow had no rest;
His coat, his stock, his shoes, his vest,
Were all that now met mortal eye—
The rest, invisibility!

"Now, madam, give them up, I beg—
I've bad rheumatics in my leg;
Besides, until you do, it's plain
I cannot come to sight again!

"For though some mirth it might afford
To see my clothes without their lord,
Yet there would rise indignant oaths
If he were seen without his clothes!"



But no; resolved to have her quiz,
The lady held her own—and his—
And PETER left his humble cot
To find a pair of—you know what.

But—here's the worst of the affair—
Whene'er he came across a pair
Already placed for him to don,
He was too stout to get them on!

So he resolved at once to train,
And walked and walked with all his main;
For years he paced this mortal earth,
To bring himself to decent girth.

At night, when all around is still,
You'll find him pounding up a hill;
And shrieking peasants whom he meets,
Fall down in terror on the peats!

Old PETER walks through wind and rain,
Resolved to train, and train, and train,
Until he weighs twelve stone or so—
And when he does, I'll let you know.





THE MYSTIC SELVAGEE.

PERHAPS already you may know
SIR BLENNERHASSET PORTICO?

A Captain in the Navy, he—

A Baronet and K.C.B.

You do? I thought so!

It was that captain's favourite whim

(A notion not confined to him)

That RODNEY was the greatest tar

Who ever wielded capstan-bar.

He had been taught so.

“BENBOW! CORNWALLIS! HOOD!—Belay!

Compared with RODNEY”—he would say—

“No other tar is worth a rap!

The great LORD RODNEY was the chap

The French to polish!



The ancient sailor turned his quid,
 Prepared to do as he was bid :
 "Ay, ay, yer honour; to begin,
 You've done away with 'swiftin' in'—
 Well, sir, you shouldn't!

"Upon your spars I see you've clapped
 Peak halliard blocks, all iron-capped.
 I would not christen that a crime,
 But 't was not done in RODNEY's time.
 It looks half-witted !
 Upon your maintop-stay, I see,
 You always clap a selvagee !
 Your stays, I see, are equalized—
 No vessel, such as RODNEY prized,
 Would thus be fitted !

Next day old JASPER came once more :

“ I think, sir, I was right before.”

Well, up the mast the sailors sk'pped,

The selvagee was soon unshipped,

And all were merry.

Again a day, and JASPER came :

“ I p'raps deserve your honour's blame,

I can't make up my mind,” said he,

“ About that cursed selvagee—

It's foolish—very.

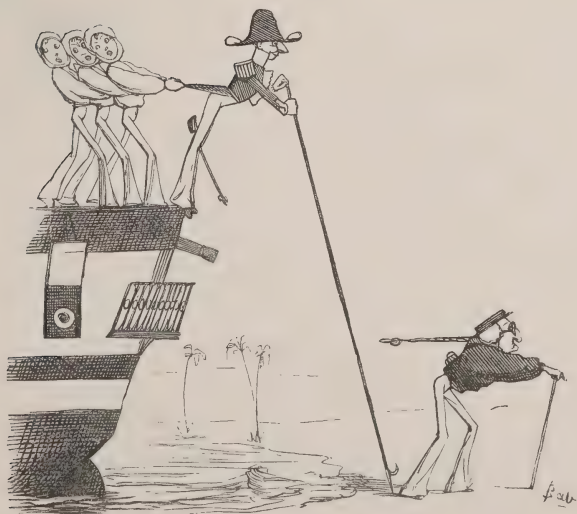
“ On Monday night I could have sworn

That maintop-stay it should adorn,

On Tuesday morning I could swear

That selvagee should not be there.

The knot's a rasper !”



"Oh, you be hanged," said CAPTAIN P.,
"Here, go ashore at Caribbee.
Get out—good bye—shove off—all right!"
Old JASPER soon was out of sight—
Farewell, old JASPER!



Policeman nothing said
 (Though he had much to say on it),
But from the bad man's head
 He took the cap that lay on it.

"No, great SIR HERBERT WHITE—
 Impossible to take him up.
This man is honest quite—
 Wherever did you rake him up?

"For Burglars, Thieves, and Co.,
 Indeed, I'm no apologist,
But I, some years ago,
 Assisted a Phrenologist.

"Observe his various bumps,
 His head as I uncover it:
His morals lie in lumps
 All round about and over it."

"Now take him," said SIR WHITE,
 "Or you will soon be rueing it;
Bless me! I must be right,—
 I caught the fellow doing it!"

Policeman calmly smiled,
 "Indeed you are mistaken, sir,
You're agitated—riled—
 And very badly shaken, sir.

"Sit down, and I'll explain
 My system of Phrenology,
A second, please, remain"—
 (A second is horology).

"He of true Christian ways
As bright example sent us is—
This maxim he obeys,
'*Sorte tuâ contentus sis.*'

"There, let him go his ways,
He needs no stern admonishing.
The Bart., in blank amaze,
Exclaimed, "This is astonishing!

"I *must* have made a mull,
This matter I've been blind in it:
Examine, please, *my* skull,
And tell me what you find in it."

That Crusher looked, and said
With unimpaired urbanity,
"SIR HERBERT, you've a head
That teems with inhumanity.

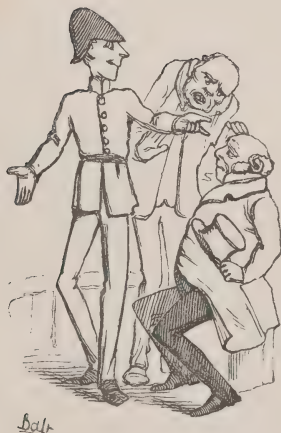
"Here's Murder, Envy, Strife
(Propensity to kill any),
And Lies as large as life,
And heaps of Social Villany.

"Here's Love of Bran-New Clothes,
Embezzling—Arson—Deism—
A taste for Slang and Oaths,
And Fraudulent Trusteeism.

"Here's Love of Groundless Charge—
Here's Malice, too, and Trickery,
Unusually large
Your bump of Pocket-Pickery——"

“Stop!” said the Bart., “my cup
Is full—I’m worse than him in all;
Policeman, take me up—
No doubt I am some criminal!”

That Pleeceman’s scorn grew large
(Phrenology had nettled it),
He took that Bart. in charge—
I don’t know how they settled it.





THE FAIRY CURATE.

ONCE a fairy
Light and airy
Married with a mortal;
Men, however,
Never, never
Pass the fairy portal.
Slyly stealing,
She to Ealing
Made a daily journey;
There she found him,
Clients round him
(He was an attorney).

Long they tarried,
Then they married.

When the ceremony
Once was ended,
Off they wended
On their moon of honey.
Twelvemonth, maybe,
Saw a baby
(Friends performed an orgie).
Much they prized him,
And baptized him
By the name of GEORGIE.

GEORGIE grew up ;
Then he flew up
To his fairy mother.
Happy meeting—
Pleasant greeting—
Kissing one another.
“Choose a calling
Most enthralling,
I sincerely urge ye.”
“Mother,” said he
(Rev’rence made he),
“I would join the clergy.

“Give permission
In addition—
Pa will let me do it :
There’s a living
In his giving—
He’ll appoint me to it.
Dreams of coff’ring
Easter off’ring,

Tithe and rent and pew-rate,
So inflame me
(Do not blame me),
That I'll be a curate."

She, with pleasure,
Said, "My treasure,
'T is my wish precisely.
Do your duty,
There's a beauty ;
You have chosen wisely.
Tell your father
I would rather
As a churchman rank you.
You, in clover,
I'll watch over."
GEORGIE said, "Oh, thank you !"

GEORGIE scudded,
Went and studied,
Made all preparations,
And with credit
(Though he said it)
Passed examinations.
(Do not quarrel
With him, moral,
Scrupulous digestions—
'T was his mother,
And no other,
Answered all the questions.)



Time proceeded ;
Little needed
GEORGIE admonition :
He, elated,
Vindicated
Clergyman's position.
People round him
Always found him
Plain and unpretending ;
Kindly teaching,
Plainly preaching,
All his money lending.

So the fairy,
 Wise and wary,
 Felt no sorrow rising—
 No occasion
 For persuasion,
 Warning, or advising.
 He, resuming
 Fairy pluming
 (That's not English, is it?)
 Oft would fly up,
 To the sky up,
 Pay mamma a visit.

*

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Time progressing,
 GEORGIE'S blessing
 Grew more Ritualistic—
 Popish scandals,
 Tonsures—sandals—
 Genuflections mystic;
 Gushing meetings—
 Bosom-beatings—
 Heavenly ecstasies—
 Brodered spencers—
 Copes and censers—
 Rochets and dalmatics.

This quandary
 Vexed the fairy—
 Flew she down to Ealing.

“GEORGIE, stop it !
Pray you, drop it ;
Hark to my appealing :
To this foolish
Papal rule-ish
Twaddle put an ending ;
This a swerve is
From our Service
Plain and unpretending.”

He, replying,
Answered, sighing,
Hawing, hemming, humming,
“ It’s a pity—
They’re so pritty ;
Yet in mode becoming,
Mother tender,
I’ll surrender—
I’ll be unaffected——”
But his Bishop
Into *his* shop
Entered unexpected !

“ Who is this, sir,—
Ballet miss, sir ? ”
Said the Bishop coldly.
“ ’T is my mother,
And no other,”
GEORGIE answered boldly.
“ Go along, sir !
You are wrong, sir ;

You have years in plenty,
 While this hussy
 (Gracious mussy!)
 Isn't two and twenty!"



(Fairies clever
 Never, never
 Grow in visage older;
 And the fairy,
 All unwary,
 Leant upon his shoulder!)
 Bishop grieved him,
 Disbelieved him;
 GEORGE the point grew warm on;
 Changed religion,
 Like a pigeon,*
 And became a Mormon!

* "Like a bird."—*Slang expression.*



THE WAY OF WOOING.

A MAIDEN sat at her window wide,
Pretty enough for a Prince's bride,
Yet nobody came to claim her.
She sat like a beautiful picture there,
With pretty bluebells and roses fair,
And jasmine-leaves to frame her.
And why she sat there nobody knows;
But this she sang as she plucked a rose,
The leaves around her strewing:

"I've time to lose and power to choose ;
 'Tis not so much the gallant who woos,
 But the gallant's *way* of wooing !"



A lover came riding by awhile,
 A wealthy lover was he, whose smile
 Some maids would value greatly—
 A formal lover, who bowed and bent,
 With many a high-flown compliment,
 And cold demeanour stately.
 "You've still," said she to her suitor stern,
 "The 'prentice-work of your craft to learn,
 If thus you come a-cooing.
 I've time to lose and power to choose ;
 'Tis not so much the gallant who woos
 As the gallant's *way* of wooing !"

A second lover came ambling by—
A timid lad with a frightened eye
And a colour mantling highly.
He muttered the errand on which he'd come,
Then only chuckled and bit his thumb,
And simpered, simpered shyly.



"No," said the maiden, "go your way ;
You dare but think what a man would say,
Yet dare to come a-suing !
I've time to lose and power to choose ;
'Tis not so much the gallant who woos
As the gallant's *way* of wooing !"

A third rode up at a startling pace—
A suitor poor, with a homely face—
No doubts appeared to bind him.
He kissed her lips and he pressed her waist,
And off he rode with the maiden, placed
On a pillion safe behind him.

And she heard the suitor bold confide
'This golden hint to the priest who tied
The knot there's no undoing:
"With pretty young maidens who can choose,
'Tis not so much the gallant who woos
As the gallant's *way* of wooing!"





HONGREE AND MAHRY.

A RECOLLECTION OF A SURREY MELODRAMA.

THE sun was setting in its wonted west,
When HONGREE, Sub-Lieutenant of Chassoores,
Met MAHRY DAUBIGNY, the Village Rose,
Under the Wizard's Oak—old trysting-place
Of those who loved in rosy Aquitaine.

They thought themselves unwatched, but they were not;
For HONGREE, Sub-Lieutenant of Chassoores,
Found in LIEUTENANT-COLONEL JOOLES DUBOSC
A rival, envious and unscrupulous,

Who thought it not foul scorn to dodge his steps,
And listen, unperceived, to all that passed
Between the simple little Village Rose
And HONGREE, Sub-Lieutenant of Chassoores.

A clumsy barrack-bully was DUBOSC,
Quite unfamiliar with the well-bred tact
That animates a proper gentleman
In dealing with a girl of humble rank.
You'll understand his coarseness when I say
He would have married MAHRY DAUBIGNY,
And dragged the unsophisticated girl
Into the whirl of fashionable life,
For which her singularly rustic ways,
Her breeding (moral but extremely rude),
Her language (chaste, but ungrammatical),
Would absolutely have unfitted her.
How different to this unreflecting boor
Was HONGREE, Sub-Lieutenant of Chassoores !

Contemporary with the incident
Related in our opening paragraph,
Was that sad war 'twixt Gallia and ourselves
That followed on the treaty signed at Troyes;
And so LIEUTENANT-COLONEL JOOLES DUBOSC
(Brave soldier, he, with all his faults of style)
And HONGREE, Sub-Lieutenant of Chassoores,
Were sent by CHARLES of France against the lines
Of our Sixth HENRY (Fourteen twenty-nine),
To drive his legions out of Aquitaine.

When HONGREE, Sub-Lieutenant of Chassoores,
Returned, suspecting nothing, to his camp,
After his meeting with the Village Rose,

He found inside his barrack letter-box
 A note from the commanding officer,
 Requiring his attendance at head-quarters.
 He went, and found LIEUTENANT-COLONEL JOOLES.

“Young HONGREE, Sub-Lieutenant of Chassoores,
 This night we shall attack the English camp:



Be the ‘forlorn hope’ yours—you’ll lead it, sir,
 And lead it too with credit, I’ve no doubt.
 As every man must certainly be killed
 (For you are twenty ’gainst two thousand men),
 It is not likely that you will return.
 But what of that? you’ll have the benefit
 Of knowing that you die a soldier’s death.”

Obedience was young HONGREE’s strongest point,
 But he imagined that he only owed

Allegiance to his MAHRY and his King.
"If MAHRY bade me lead these fated men,
I'd lead them—but I do not think she would.
If CHARLES, my King, said, 'Go, my son, and die,'
I'd go, of course—my duty would be clear.
But MAHRY is in bed asleep, I hope,
And CHARLES, my King, a hundred leagues from this.
As for LIEUTENANT-COLONEL JOOLES DUBOSC,
How know I that our monarch would approve
The order he has given me to-night?
My King I've sworn in all things to obey—
I'll only take my orders from my King!"
Thus HONGREE, Sub-Lieutenant of Chassoores,
Interpreted the terms of his commission.

And HONGREE, who was wise as he was good,
Disguised himself that night in ample cloak,
Round flapping hat, and visor mask of black,
And made, unnoticed, for the English camp.
He passed the unsuspecting sentinels



(Who little thought a man in this disguise
Could be a proper object of suspicion),
And ere the curfew bell had boomed "lights out,"
He found in audience Bedford's haughty Duke.

"Your Grace," he said, "start not—be not alarmed,
Although a Frenchman stands before your eyes.
I'm HONGREE, Sub-Lieutenant of Chassoores.
My Colonel will attack your camp to-night,
And orders me to lead the hope forlorn.
Now I am sure our excellent KING CHARLES
Would not approve of this; but he's away
A hundred leagues, and rather more than that.
So, utterly devoted to my King,
Blinded by my attachment to the throne,
And having but its interest at heart,
I feel it is my duty to disclose
All schemes that emanate from COLONEL JOOLES,
If I believe that they are not the kind
Of schemes that our good monarch would approve."

"But how," said Bedford's Duke, "do you propose
That we should overthrow your Colonel's scheme?"
And HONGREE, Sub-Lieutenant of Chassoores,
Replied at once with never-failing tact:
"Oh, sir, I know this cursed country well.
Entrust yourself and all your host to me;
I'll lead you safely by a secret path
Into the heart of COLONEL JOOLES' array,
And you can then attack them unprepared,
And slay my fellow-countrymen unarmed."

The thing was done. The DUKE of BEDFORD gave
The order, and two thousand fighting-men

Crept silently into the Gallic camp,
And slew the Frenchmen as they lay asleep ;
And Bedford's haughty Duke slew COLONEL JOOLIES,
And gave fair MAHRV, pride of Aquitaine,
To HONGREE, Sub-Lieutenant of Chassoores.



ETIQUETTE.*



THE *Ballyshannon* foundered off the coast of Cariboo,
And down in fathoms many went the captain and the crew;
Down went the owners—greedy men whom hope of gain allured:
Oh, dry the starting tear, for they were heavily insured.

Besides the captain and the mate, the owners and the crew,
The passengers were also drowned excepting only two:
Young PETER GRAY, who tasted teas for BAKER, CROOP, AND CO.,
And SOMERS, who from Eastern shores imported indigo.



These passengers, by reason of their clinging to a mast,
Upon a desert island were eventually cast.
They hunted for their meals, as ALEXANDER SELKIRK used,
But they couldn't chat together—they had not been introduced.

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For PETER GRAY, and SOMERS too, though certainly in trade,
Were properly particular about the friends they made;
And somehow thus they settled it without a word of mouth—
That GRAY should take the northern half, while SOMERS took the
south.

On PETER'S portion oysters grew—a delicacy rare,
But oysters were a delicacy PETER couldn't bear.
On SOMERS' side was turtle, on the shingle lying thick,
Which SOMERS couldn't eat, because it always made him sick.

GRAY gnashed his teeth with envy as he saw a mighty store
Of turtle unmolested on his fellow-creature's shore.
The oysters at his feet aside impatiently he shoved,
For turtle, and his mother, were the only things he loved.

And SOMERS sighed in sorrow as he settled in the south,
For the thought of PETER'S oysters brought the water to his mouth.
He longed to lay him down upon the shelly bed, and stuff:
He had often eaten oysters, but had never had enough.

How they wished an introduction to each other they had had
When on board the *Ballyshannon*! And it drove them nearly mad
To think how very friendly with each other they might get,
If it wasn't for the arbitrary rule of etiquette!

One day, when out a-hunting for the *mus ridiculus*,
GRAY overheard his fellow-man soliloquizing thus:
"I wonder how the playmates of my youth are getting on,
M'CONNELL, S. B. WALTERS, PADDY BYLES, and ROBINSON?"

These simple words made PETER as delighted as could be,
 Old chummies at the Charterhouse were ROBINSON and he!
 He walked straight up to SOMERS, then he turned extremely red,
 Hesitated, hummed and hawed a bit, then cleared his throat, and
 said :



“I beg your pardon—pray forgive me if I seem too bold,
 But you have breathed a name I knew familiarly of old.
 You spoke aloud of ROBINSON—I happened to be by.
 You know him?” “Yes, extremely well.” “Allow me, so do I.”

It was enough: they felt they could more pleasantly get on,
 For (ah, the magic of the fact!) they each knew ROBINSON!
 And Mr. SOMERS' turtle was at PETER's service quite,
 And Mr. SOMERS punished PETER's oyster-beds all night.

They soon became like brothers from community of wrongs:
 They wrote each other little odes and sang each other songs;



They told each other anecdotes disparaging their wives;
On several occasions, too, they saved each other's lives.

They felt quite melancholy when they parted for the night,
And got up in the morning soon as ever it was light;
Each other's pleasant company they reckoned so upon,
And all because it happened that they both knew ROBINSON!

They lived for many years on that inhospitable shore,
And day by day they learned to love each other more and more.
At last, to their astonishment, on getting up one day,
They saw a frigate anchored in the offing of the bay.

To PETER an idea occurred. "Suppose we cross the main?
So good an opportunity may not be found again."
And SOMERS thought a minute, then ejaculated, "Done!
I wonder how my business in the City's getting on?"

"But stay," said Mr. PETER: "when in England, as you know,
I earned a living tasting teas for BAKER, CROOP, AND CO.,
I may be superseded—my employers think me dead!"
"Then come with me," said Somers, "and taste indigo instead."

But all their plans were scattered in a moment when they found
The vessel was a convict ship from Portland, outward bound;
When a boat came off to fetch them, though they felt it very kind,
To go on board they firmly but respectfully declined.

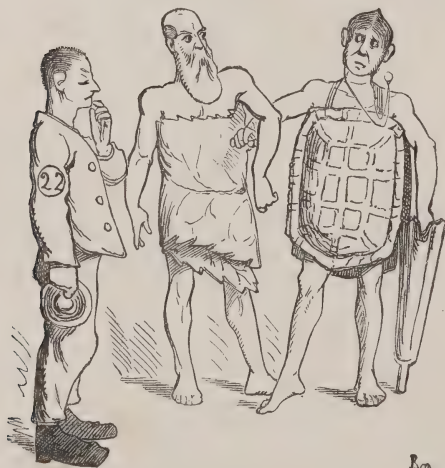


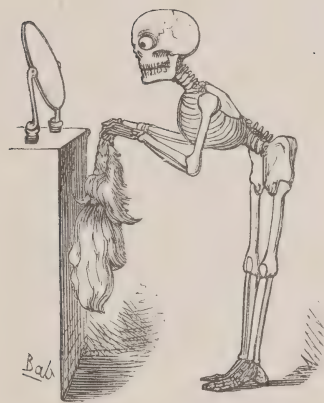
As both the happy settlers roared with laughter at the joke,
They recognized a gentlemanly fellow pulling stroke:
'Twas ROBINSON—a convict, in an unbecoming frock!
Condemned to seven years for misappropriating stock!!!

They laughed no more, for SOMERS thought he had been rather rash
In knowing one whose friend had misappropriated cash;
And PETER thought a foolish tack he must have gone upon
In making the acquaintance of a friend of ROBINSON.

At first they didn't quarrel very openly, I've heard ;
They nodded when they met, and now and then exchanged a word :
The word grew rare, and rarer still the nodding of the head,
And when they meet each other now, they cut each other dead.

To allocate the island they agreed by word of mouth,
And PETER takes the north again, and SOMERS takes the south ;
And PETER has the oysters, which he hates, in layers thick,
And SOMERS has the turtle—turtle always makes him sick.





AT A PANTOMIME.

BY A BILIOUS ONE.

AN Actor sits in doubtful gloom,
His stock-in-trade unfurled,
In a damp funereal dressing-room
In the Theatre Royal, World.

He comes to town at Christmas-time,
And braves its icy breath,
To play in that favourite pantomime,
Harlequin Life and Death.

A hoary flowing wig his weird
Unearthly cranium caps,
He hangs a long benevolent beard
On a pair of empty chaps.

To smooth his ghastly features down
The actor's art he cribs,—
'A long and a flowing padded gown
Bedecks his rattling ribs.

He cries, "Go on—begin!
Turn on the light of lime—
I'm dressed for jolly Old Christmas, in
A favourite pantomime!"

The curtain's up—the stage all black—
Time and the year nigh sped—
Time as an advertising quack—
The Old Year nearly dead.

The wand of Time is waved, and lo!
Revealed Old Christmas stands,
And little children chuckle and crow,
And laugh and clap their hands.

The cruel old scoundrel brightens up
At the death of the Olden Year,
And he waves a gorgeous golden cup,
And bids the world good cheer.

The little ones hail the festive King,—
No thought can make them sad.
Their laughter comes with a sounding ring,
They clap and crow like mad!

They only see in the humbug old
A holiday every year,
And handsome gifts, and joys untold,
And unaccustomed cheer.



The old ones, palsied, blear, and hoar,
Their breasts in anguish beat—
They've seen him seventy times before,
How well they know the cheat!

They've seen that ghastly pantomime,
They've felt its blighting breath,
They know that rollicking Christmas-time
Meant Cold and Want and Death,—

Starvation—Poor Law Union fare—
And deadly cramps and chills,
And illness—illness everywhere,
And crime, and Christmas bills.

They know Old Christmas well, I ween,
Those men of ripened age ;
They've often, often, often seen
That Actor off the stage !

They see in his gay rotundity
A clumsy stuffed-out dress—
They see in the cup he waves on high
A tinselled emptiness.

Those aged men so lean and wan,
They've seen it all before,
They know they'll see the charlatan
But twice or three times more.

And so they bear with dance and song,
And crimson foil and green,
They wearily sit, and grimly long
For the Transformation Scene.



HAUNTED.

HAUNTED? Ay, in a social way
By a body of ghosts in dread array;
But no conventional spectres they—
Appalling, grim, and tricky:
I quail at mine as I'd never quail
At a fine traditional spectre pale,
With a turnip head and a ghostly wail,
And a splash of blood on the dickey!

Mine are horrible, social ghosts,—
Speeches and women and guests and hosts,
Weddings and morning calls and toasts,
In every bad variety:
Ghosts who hover about the grave
Of all that's manly, free, and brave:
You'll find their names on the architrave
Of that charnel-house, Society.

Black Monday—black as its school-room ink—
With its dismal boys that snivel and think
Of its nauseous messes to eat and drink,
And its frozen tank to wash in.

That was the first that brought me grief,
And made me weep, till I sought relief
In an emblematical handkerchief,
To choke such baby bosh in.

First and worst in the grim array—
Ghosts of ghosts that have gone their way,
Which I wouldn't revive for a single day
For all the wealth of PLUTUS—
Are the horrible ghosts that school-days scared:
If the classical ghost that BRUTUS dared
Was the ghost of his "Cæsar" unprepared,
I'm sure I pity BRUTUS.

I pass to critical seventeen;
The ghost of that terrible wedding scene,
When an elderly Colonel stole my Queen,
And woke my dream of heaven.
No schoolgirl decked in her nurse-room curls
Was my gushing innocent Queen of Pearls;
If she wasn't a girl of a thousand girls,
She was one of forty-seven!

I see the ghost of my first cigar,
Of the thence-arising family jar—
Of my maiden brief (I was at the Bar,
And I called the Judge "Your wushup!")
Of reckless days and reckless nights,
With wrenched-off knockers, extinguished lights,
Unholy songs and tipsy fights,
Which I strove in vain to hush up.

Ghosts of fraudulent joint-stock banks,
Ghosts of "copy, declined with thanks,"
Of novels returned in endless ranks,
And thousands more, I suffer.
The only line to fitly grace
My humble tomb, when I've run my race,
Is, "Reader, this is the resting-place
Of an unsuccessful duffer."

I've fought them all, these ghosts of mine,
But the weapons I've used are sighs and brine,
And now that I'm nearly forty-nine,
Old age is my chiefest bogey;
For my hair is thinning away at the crown,
And the silver fights with the worn-out brown;
And a general verdict sets me down
As an irreclaimable foggy.

THE END.



